

# Maclean's

Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

**SPECIAL REPORT  
ON PRISONS**

**Old Folks Behind Bars**

**SPORTS**

**Mike Weir Shoots  
for the Masters**

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# This Week

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Credible Wild Wines

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ROGERS  
MEDIA

## COVER

Parental worries may be eternal, sociologist Reginald Bibbey argues in *Canadians Then & Today: Nostalgia and Timor*, his groundbreaking study of 3,500 Canadians aged 15 to 19, but teenagers value the same things their parents do—family, music and business.



Shawinigan continued its Ottawa run. But in the absence of good stagecraft, there was a sense that the opposition's audience was heading for the exits.



## SPECIAL REPORT

While the prison population is declining, the number of older prisoners like Jim Elder continues to rise, giving some jails the air of a nursing home.



It has been 32 years since a Canadian seriously contested at the Masters, the first major championship of the golf season. Miller Weir could end that drought this week.

# Publisher

## An editor head and shoulders above the rest

On March 27, *Maclean's* Publisher Paul Jones announced the appointment of Anthony Wilson-Smith to replace Wilson-Smith, formerly editor at large, director of online services, and a mostly colorless, somewhat Robert Lewis, who resigned last January to take an executive position with Rogers Media Inc., the parent company of *Maclean's*. Here is a portrait of Jones' remarks in announcing the appointment:

**This is a great day for the readers of *Maclean's*** as we celebrate the editor who will guide the magazine to its centennial in 2005 and beyond. Extensive consultation with hundreds of representative readers has shown that their core themes should shape the next chapter for *Maclean's*.

First, the magazine must build on the distinction that no other national audience can claim with so much credibility to everyday Canadians: "We're on your side."

Second, we must redefine "news" in a worldly context. It's no longer what happened last week, but rather "what's new to me right now"—the definition of "news" used by most Canadians.

Third, we must seek more ways to



Wilson-Smith (left) with Jones change

showcase the special virtues of magazines: crapping design, amazing photography and stylish writing.

Anthony Wilson-Smith was at our event with his enthusiasm for these three themes and his passionate commitment to the change necessary to make them a

reality for our half-million subscribers and newsstand buyers.

Readers may appreciate some personal background on Anthony.

- He has reported from every province in Canada and from more than 30 countries overseas, making him the best-travelled editor in the magazine's history.

- He has spent less than four years of his career in Toronto, a real advantage in editing a national magazine that must speak to Canadians in all parts of the country.

- He is bilingual (English, French and Russian).

- He is an award-winning author and frequent contributor to other media.

- He is married to the journalist, broadcaster and *Maclean's* columnist Denise McMurphy. They have a 26-year-old and a one-month-old.

- His two-handed anatomy is of Irish origin and dates back to the 19th century in Canada.

- And as you can see, he is the oldest editor on our history. We will try not to hold this against him.

All the best, Tony. You will do a fine job for the readers of *Maclean's*.

## Newsroom Notes

### Welcome plaudits

**Investigative reporting** is an important element of what we do at *Maclean's* and we are delighted when our efforts are recognized by our peers. Last year, senior writers Sam Fennell and Chris Wood shared the Canadian Association of Journalists award for outstanding investigative reporting by a magazine. For an article that documented the perilous process by which refugees from China



Come right Fennell, O'Hara, Wood, getting the award behind the news

are struggled into Canada, Fennell is now named again this year, with Shang Hui, for "The struggled lives" (Dec. 11, 2000), a follow-up investigation into what happens to the refugees once they are in Canada. In fact, *Maclean's*

writers account for four of the five finalists in this year's CAJ competition. Contributing Editor June O'Hara is nominated for "Abuse of trust"—her June 26, 2000, examination of discreditable of native residential schools. Senior Writer John Nield is a finalist for "Persons for sale" (April 3), a look at the black market for Canadian passports in Asia. And London Bureau Chief Barry Come is nominated for "Tearing the sleeves of Sade" (April 10). The fifth finalist is Ed Strack of *Epiphany* for "Life on Mars." The winner will be announced on May 26 in St. John's, Nfld.

## Chapter 8

### REGISTERED EDUCATION SAVINGS PLANS

—JAN

#### RESPS - CHOICES FOR INVESTORS

Investing in a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) is an important and affordable decision. Through this vehicle the living program, you may get the benefit of a year's investment without any tax on your children's graduation. It is an investment decision that can make a big difference in your child's future, and it can result in significant tax savings for the subscriber.

When making the decision to invest in an RESP, you will need to decide what you are thinking about when you will need the money. Take time to learn how your plan can be tailored to benefit others—relatives beyond your own RESP network. But please note the limitations that you as a parent in Canada Income Tax Act, R.S.C. (c) 42, s. 246.1(1), whereby the benefits are not necessarily secure in these plans that have a non-vested status as a beneficiary.

The Registered Plans Division (RPD) of Canada's Revenue Agency (CRA) and the Canada Education Savings Grant Program (CESGP) of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) have agreed to simplify the process. The Government of Canada will contribute to the plans the equivalent of 30% of the amount contributed to a plan that will accumulate, sheltered from taxation. However, since the RPD has received and the CESGP has approved the plan to make money from it, they will begin to be taxed on the money they receive from the fund. They will be taxed at a level that, which results in a net tax advantage for the contributor. Including circumstances relating to the rate of inflation and any potential loss in the value of the currency that may have occurred prior to the RESP being opened.

Over a lifetime, say, an 18-year period, your savings can add up to more than \$100,000. If the time your child reaches 18 or 19 years of age, or less, maximum of 15 years from the plan's inception date, for or she can use the benefits of a Registered Education Savings Plan. At such point in time, the subscriber will stop making contributions to the plan. Finally, once the subscriber has made arrangements to have the plan transferred to an appropriately designated person for an initial 10% of the named beneficiary's benefit.

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# The Mail

## It's only a game

I hope every parent involved in minor sports made "Black eye" (Cover, March 26). I just suffered through a season of Ontario Midget A hockey, and this article is all too familiar. I've witnessed a player being a stick at a coach, a player knowing another with intent to injure, players scolding parents, incompetent refereeing and, yes, atrocious behavior from ignorant parents and coaches. Come on, Canada, remember why we're in the stands and why today the game it was meant to be

**Bill Hewitt**  
Hagerstown, Md.

It appears that you took the easy road and regarded the hockey establishment's viewpoint. It is not that referees are totally incompetent, it's just that they drive people crazy by misreading and inconsistently suspending the rules of hockey. Serious cheating from behind became the call du jour, boarding and charging, which are just about as dangerous, have been forgiven, Church and gunnible. Hockey is marquis and the happy hockey are ignored by the officials, unless a player is obviously brought down. Goals and obvious interference has become an integral part of the game. Inadequate stick work leaves a lot of runs and bruises—which, in



most instances, isn't caught. We've all forgotten that the rules of the game were established to protect the player.

**Robert Matheson**, London, Ont.

The first thing you learn when winning baseball is that every time you make a call at least half the people on the diamond aren't going to like it. What really gets you is that the players make mistakes and then blame us for the results. Knowing that most of the folks yelling at me are ignorant of the rules gives me some relief. More than once I've offered to let some obnoxious idiot take over. I don't go to their workplace and yell at them.

**Joe Behagel**, Windsor, Ont.

I'm 17 and I referee hockey games in McEwen, Sask. Somebody told me that McEwen isn't even paid the most in Saskatchewan, but frankly, sometimes it isn't worth the mere oiling and belting. Even people who have no idea how to play the game across at you. I always have to think to myself, "If it's so easy, why aren't they out here?" I've gained a huge respect for referees since I started the job.

**Tim Hovemann**, Montreal, Sask.

The majority of parents do not expect refs to be perfect, but we do expect them to be fair. I had occasion to watch a soccer game in which the two teams were not evenly matched and the referee called a game that gave extreme advantage to the weaker team. The stronger team was almost unable to play, since they were called on every transgression (real and perceived), while the weaker team was allowed to get away with almost everything. The stronger team became frustrated. It was not a pleasant experience. The referee

## The art of hockey

*Shades of The Sunday Evening Post: Congratulations on your decision to portray your March 26 cover story ("Black eye") in the form of an album—beautifully rendered by Greg Thomson. In an era of instant face video cameras and instant self photography, your cover painting and what no lens could ever see.*

**John Burton**, Quilicura Beach, B.C.

seemed to feel justified in calling the game based on his perception of who would help rather than on the rules. Although this may come as a surprise to some referees, most parents do know the difference between an honest mistake and a biased call.

**Wesley Black**, Winnipeg

I have two young boys who absolutely love hockey, yet I refuse to have them play the game. As long as these selfish, egotistical hypocrites (who want their kids to bodycheck other kids, but no player can hit their kid) sit in the stands and incite hockey hangers, you will not see me or my kids there. It is a horrible stain on our national game.

**Sharon Seider**, Edmonton, Ont.

In the past three days, I have heard of stick rage, surf rage, computer rage, road rage and car rage. Is it not a case of poor life skills, lack of self-control, selfishness, ignorance and abusive behavior? Or are I developing rage rage?

**Bernadette Macpherson**, Aurora, N.S.

The Delhi team in your article was not the Delhi Legion Peewee but a league team from the same town. Our legion team, by the way, went on to win the All-Ontario championship on March 25 by beating the power team from Essex.

**Norm Rasmussen**, Delhi, Ont.

## George W. Malaprop

*Andrew Phillips points out that the American media are going on and on about how to help George W. Bush's unexcused music scene ("What was that he*



### Letters to the Editor

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Dr. Sylvie Gauthier at the Université Laval's Dairy Research Centre is studying milk proteins and how they can be used in developing specialized ingredients for nutritional, pharmaceutical and even cosmetic uses. She has found that along with their tremendous nutritional benefits, milk proteins also have excellent functional properties, making them valuable to food manufacturers.

Using adapted modified milk proteins, for example, Dr. Gauthier can produce egg-free mayonnaise. Her research is also being used to develop easily digestible, high-protein drinks and food products for endurance athletes. And, if that isn't enough, she is also exploring the potential of these proteins to reduce blood pressure.

This is just one of many university projects funded by NSERC (the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council). We're celebrating our world-class scientists and engineers who keep Canada at the forefront of research. Their work pays huge dividends with jobs, a higher standard of living, and economic prosperity. And this research is giving added proof to the old adage that milk really is nature's perfect food.



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Canada

## The Mail

used? March 26), then proceeds to do so himself by stating Bush is in a "losing battle with grammar and syntax." Nonsense, grammar and syntax are not the problem, as Bush's sentences will reveal. The problems are in his almost constant malapropisms, which betray a mind unable to discern between various concepts and various usages. God help America!

Phyllis Graham, Kemptville, B.C.

George W. Bush and Jean Chrétien should get along, neither can be dogheaded.

George Johnson, Windsor, Ont.

## Quality time defined

Will the real Barbara Arnold—the stand-up comic, that is—please sit down? I can't take any more. My sides are sore from laughing. New depths in naive-drooping and new highs in overemphaticism made the funniest column so far this year ("Aging in the far lane," March 26), far funnier than anything Dr. Froh has attempted. But then, those people trying to find quality time with their children while holding down two jobs to make ends meet do need a good laugh.

Joan Francis, Winnipeg

## Farmers in peril

The problems facing livestock producers in Europe today are devastating. However, as a young farmer here in Quebec, I, too, am facing challenges that threaten the future of my livelihood. While the European problems have received extensive coverage ("Droving measures," Canada and the World, March 26), the day of gloom held in various Canadian cities on March 24 by Canadian farmers received little more than a blurb in the Canada News section ("The death of agriculture," March 26). The next generation of Canadian farmers is being driven off the farm by unfair trade practices that resulted in sub-

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## Overture

## Rockin' Blues

## Tuning in nostalgia

Toronto radio station CHWO AM740 has found a captive audience. Recently, the station received a letter from a resident of Attica prison who said he loves their 50-plus format. The prisoner is an inmate New York, about 45 km east of Buffalo, along with vacationers in Bermuda, residents of the coasts United States and nearly all provinces in Canada can, at times, access the southern Ontario station thanks to its strong signal. In January, CHWO moved from its low-power 1250 position on the AM dial to the coveted 740 site—which was previously held by the CBC.

With the change of address, the station bolstered its 50-plus format with swing, big band, Broadway and Barbershop music programs, as well as gardening, travel and financial talk shows. "There is really nothing like what we are doing that is on the airwaves," says station owner **Michael Gaine**, referring to the absence of 50-plus programming in southern Ontario. "Everyone seems to have



A Toronto station branch will  
reaching Astoria and Hermiston

changed formats to younger demographics and gave its rock 'n' roll. "While the station's ratings won't be released until May, *Caine* is extremely optimistic. The old station pulled in 200,000 listeners a week, which was more than many Toronto stations. Also, CHWO listeners kept the station on for 15 to 18 hours a week, compared with an average of about five hours for other stations. Now that he is relaxed at AM740, *Caine* speculates he will have an audience of 400,000—which is pretty good for a station on the out-of-fashion AM band. "Our target demographic," says *Caine*, "grew up on AM radio. So to hear music on AM is not a bad thing for them." Besides, when going to all the gray in Arca, *Caine* is going to need it.

**Keywords:** *workplace spirituality, spirituality, spirituality in the workplace, spirituality in the workplace, spirituality in the workplace*

"Once sworn to the great peninsula that I would pass on his grave and he swore that I would never outlive him to have the opportunity. Now I am duty bound to fulfil my oath. The question is, do I drink the earth in Canada or Italy? If Italy, I will battle here in rich, red Chianti, and in Canada it shall be wood old red whiskey."

—Paul Watson, a prominent board member with Greenpeace before being kicked off in 1977, describing his plans to deliver the growls of the recently deceased co-founder of the international environmental lobby group David McTaggart, in an e-mail message to several former colleagues.

"Paul, you are still just as screwed up as the head is over. Obviously you had a difference of opinion with David, as I might imagine we all had. There weren't many lasting friendships so strange from the turmoil of those years. But it is just plain bad manners to make all of the deal so soon."

—Former Grange vice president **Patricia Moore's** e-mail response to the mass message sent by Hudson

"The very fact that you rise to defend the Machiavellian Male indicates the dishonesty of my comments. Julius may have betrayed the foundation but places his green spurs shield before the body of the slain warrior, like Achilles weeping over his once scorned-in-life-but-now-deeply-loved."

→ Wagner responds to Wagner

## Montreal's kidney problems

As the snow melts from Montreal, commuters describe a winter, moreover, are once again giving dollars to avoid the abundant potholes. With numerous published reports of blowouts, damaged wheels and broken axles, city officials concede the pothole problem is worse this year. (They blame it on the higher frequency of snowfalls this winter, which was laid on the pavement.) So last week, when the Québec branch of the Canadian Automobile Association urged drivers to "slow the wheels on potholes," they responded with a loud boom. Only a day after the CAA launched the appeal, motorists had already logged on to the Web site and reported the locations of 269 potholes. One contributor, advising "steer-and-avoid" policies, remarked "I think I missed a jobber from the airport."

The CAA will pass the information on to the Quebec transport departments and municipal authorities across Quebec. And the city of Montreal has assigned 300 workers to repair the holes. But the bumpy roads continue to take their toll. Quebec



A real organ carrier? Chatterbox blew the whistle on posthole

accounts for 32 per cent of the suspension repairs in Canada even though it has only 23.7 per cent of the registrations. Quebec municipalities and the provincial government are not liable for damage caused to vehicles by road conditions. "If you cannot be held responsible," says CAA Quebec spokeswoman Chane Roy, "at least repair the roads."

Bernadette Pearsonwell

Hockey practice.

## Soccer strategy

Trips to the mall.

I figure if you're going to be treated like a personal chauffeur, the least you can do is have a line

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## Overture

### PASSAGES

**Died:** In 1958, Canadian jazz artist Moe Koffman composed what would become his trademark, *Swingin' Shepherd Blues*—a tune later recorded by more than 100 artists, including jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald. The Toronto-born Koffman, who is listed more than 70 recordings, was not only a great composer but also a fine flutist, clarinetist and saxophonist. In 1950, Koffman moved to New York City to play in the big bands of Jimmy Dorsey and Sonny Dunham. After five years, he returned to Toronto, where he continued to perform and record. Koffman made his last public appearance at the Toronto Jazz Festival last June, a few weeks after releasing what would be his final album, *The Moe Koffman Project*. Only hours after being inducted into the Canadian Jazz and Blues Hall of Fame, Koffman, 72, was checked into an Orangeville hospital and died a day later of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.



**Died:** Piano teacher Boris Berlin played an integral part in moulding many of Canada's top pianists—including Christina Petricola and Bernadette Blüth. Born in Kharkov, Russia, Berlin began his career as a concert pianist in Europe. After moving to Canada, he became enthralled with teaching, and in 1925, when he was 18, Berlin accepted a job at the Hamburg Conservatory in Toronto. Three years later, he began teaching at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music—where he stayed for the remainder of his 70-year career. Berlin, 93, died of natural causes in Toronto.

**Hospitalized:** Canadian ski legend Dave Irwin, one of the famed "Crazy Canucks," remained in a coma last week. Irwin, 46, fell on March 23 while training for a race at a ski resort near Banff, Alta. Last week, he showed signs of improvement, but doctors at the Calgary hospital where he is being treated were

unable to determine his level of recovery. Irwin, Steve Podholski, Kim Rodd, Jim Hunter and Dave Murray were teammates on Canada's national ski team in the 1970s and early 1980s and gained international fame for their flamboyant style on the hills.

**Awarded:** Ontario sham-rock writer Alice Munro was named this year's recipient of the Rea Award for lifetime achievement. The \$47,000 prize, in honour of the late book and art collector Michael M. Rea, is sponsored by New York's Daemion Foundation. Munro, 69, has published several sham-rock collections including *The Beggar Maid* and Giller Prize winner *The Love of a Good Woman*.

**Died:** Norwegian author Hilde Ingstad was the first to document that Vikings reached North America before Christopher Columbus. In the 1960s, Ingstad and his archeologist wife, Anne Stene, excavated a Viking settlement in L'Anse aux Meadows, Nfld., that dated back to approximately the year 1000. After their discovery, the couple returned to Norway. Their son is now on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Stene passed away in 1997 at the age of 79. Last week, Ingstad, 101, died in his sleep, in Oslo.

**Divorced:** Ellen Fein's failed marriage may make marketing her new book, *The Rules 3.0: Time-Trend-Serve for Making Your Marriage Work*, difficult. Fein and Sherrill Schneider co-authored the 1995 best-seller *The Rules: Time-Trend-Serve is Capturing the Heart of Mr. Right*—which recommended plastic surgery and playing hard to get in order to snag the ideal guy. Fein blamed her husband, pharmacist Paul Fougere, for being unwilling to make the 16-year marriage work.

**Overtaken:** An appeal court in Manhattan has awarded a new trial to American businessman James McDermott, 49—who was convicted last April of divulging insider information to Canadian-born porn star Kathryn Gannon. The court stated there is not enough evidence for a conspiracy conviction, but there is evidence of other crimes.

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# ACQUA DI GIÒ



GIORGIO ARMANI



Peter C. Newman

## Hail to the new chief

**T**he appointment of Anthony Wilson-Smith as editor of *Maclean's* is worth celebrating. He brings to the job many of the personal and professional ingredients essential to occupying this historic editorial chair in the country. I know I sat there for 11 years.

Back in the 1970s, I rode herd over the switch of *Maclean's* from a monthly general interest publication to a weekly news-magazine. That made sense because readers at the time didn't entirely trust TV, and went to print to confirm what they'd seen. These days are history. News-magazines seduce any longer are the first messenger of news.

The process of drastically altering the magazine's scope and mandate, which started so capably under Robert Lewis, who was editor from 1993 to last December, has now been thrust into new hands. Expanding the credibility and relevance required to produce a national magazine that continues to grab its readers' attention is Wilson-Smith's most daunting challenge.

Despite the growing silence of the Internet, there remains a place for magazines, but only if their contents are useful and their tone authentic. Incredibly assigned, generously budgeted and creatively managed teams of investigative journalists will have to concentrate even more on analyzing events and outlining future options.

*Maclean's* is no longer competing for the loose change it once readers to buy it. But it most certainly is competing for the time people devote to reading the magazine. That's the new battleground: a struggle to capture the reader's time, often his or her most valuable commodity. At the same time, the old distinction between writers and readers must be redefined. Readers should write more for other readers—that is, environmental activists, the "poor," minority school teachers, soccer moms, the police, the criminal, doctor and corporate executives. They should all have their say. Unprofessional journalism it may be, but new voices with new ideas will be the result.

From its precarious birth as a business digest with 3,000 subscribers in 1905, to its current incarnation as a newsweekly with half a million subscribers and 17 million readers, *Maclean's* has documented Canada's struggle far intentioned—the tumble of itself into decline and large events that reshaped the country's passage through a difficult, occasionally inspiring and always fascinating time. At its best, *Maclean's* has been a mirror in which Canadians glimpsed each other and recognized themselves. It is a magazine woven into the dreams and nightmares of this country. It's the closest thing Canada has ever had to a national house organ—providing a lesson but valid definition of who we are and why we say here. In few countries has a national magazine exerted more influence. Canada's outrageous geography—

covering nearly one-sixteenth of the Earth's land surface stretched over six time zones—made it essential to provide an east-west communications link.

The 1979 Special Committee on Mass Media, headed by then-Senator Keith Duggan, best expressed the state of the magazine business: "Magazines add a journalistic dimension which no other media can provide—depth and wholeness and context, plus the impact of graphic design. In terms of cultural survival, magazines could potentially be as important as railroads, airlines, national broadcasting networks and national hockey leagues." This may have been a gross exaggeration of any magazine's real importance, but it didn't prevent the previous 14 strong-willed individuals who have edited *Maclean's* from trying to set the national agenda. By talking the unknown heroes and closet villains who populate these northern latitudes, by exploring that handful of metaphors that cut across private and regional interests, these editors have created and sustained a family of readers and writers united by common concerns and common interests.

## The magazine battleground is the competition for readers' time, often their most valuable commodity

Anthony Wilson-Smith, the latest recruit to this august company, will perpetuate that proud tradition.

Any great magazine reflects the virtues of its editor. What makes any publication successful is that the editor is possessed of a sense of audience that he manages to expose, within the limits of editorial freedom and corporate budgets, on his staff. This is not so much a matter of choosing the precise contents of the publication as of providing, as chief editor over the weekly editorial team, it comes down to one matter: individual's personal insights and national sensibilities. "The wisdom of a magazine," writes magazine editor and consultant Clay Felner has pointed out, "depends not on great publishing or great ideas, precious editorial formulas, world prominence or high-powered salaries, but on the vitality of one man's editorial dream. It's the beginning and end of magazines."

The mark of the great magazine editors is that he or she never quite knows what they want to publish, being much more anxious to capture the mood and temper of the times than to advocate any set partisan agenda. Filled with a sense of country's renewable curiosity, the editor goes tapping his way along, like a blind person, exploring the magazine's readers, not so much what's happened as why it's happening—which remains the essential difference between daily and magazine journalism.

It's a tough gig.

# A Faltering Drama

By John Godefs in Ottawa

There is nothing like a pacy scandal to send a government scrambling for cover. But make no mistake: the controversy gripping Ottawa these days is nothing of the sort. To scoldy shake the party in power, any scandal worthy of the name needs to tell symbols and memorable scenes. A burglary by dead of night, a blue dress in need of dry cleaning, or even a backyard deck built under shady circumstances will do. But a shaf of legal

**In desperate need of stagecraft, Shawinigan continues its Ottawa run**



Clark is the audience leading for the cast

For the most recent flue-up in the two-year saga started out looking so promising for the Prime Minister's fan, Tony and Alliance strategists were rubbing their hands together when the plot's first character with the potential to capture the public imagination surfaced. Her name is Melissa Murotto, and she was quoted in a March 23 *National Post* story stating that Chrétien had reassured a disgraced shareholder in a golf club in Shawinigan, Que., his home town, after the November 1993, date when, he had vowed, he sold the shares. The daughter of the late Jacques Murotto, an old friend of Chrétien's and one of his former partners in the golf course, Murotto was portrayed as torn between her family loyalty to the Prime Minister and her compulsion to tell the truth. Gossiping stuff. But then, in later

media interviews, she denied the key points of the first report. A setback, to be sure, but the thunderclap of the initial story, which broke on a Friday, was enough for Chrétien's enemies to spend the weekend producing the Prime Minister would be in the centre of a firestorm storm the following week.

It turned out to be nothing worse than a light drizzle. Canadian Alliance Leader Stockwell Day started things off with a wagger in last Monday's question period by accusing Chrétien of stolen-will. "He refused to table the documents," Day declared. "He will not call an independent inquiry. He will not clear the air." But Day didn't anticipate Chrétien's reply. The Prime Minister announced he would release the relevant documents as long as the private partners in the deal agreed. Even then, Tony Leader Joe Clark predicted the bill of what would "never see the light of day." But the next day, 11 documents were made public, including an unambiguous handwritten 1993 bill of sale for the golf course shares. Clearly, the opposition parties had hoped for something more incriminating—a document that instead showed he might have retained ownership. Chrétien's gleefully reminded Alliance MP Deborah Grey that she had predicted

"the Prime Minister could get this over in a heartbeat by just tabling his bill of sale for those shares in 1993."

Putting so much emphasis on firming out evidence that the share sale was a fiction now looks like a strategic blunder—and for two reasons. First, Chrétien was able to nip the upper hand by coming through with paperwork that at least seems to support his claims. And, second, the foundation on new documents deflates attention away from the fact that a



case against the Prime Minister can be made on the basis of the version of events he already agrees to.

The audience is simple enough. Chrétien bought shares in the golf club and the son next door, the Auberge Grand-Mère, in 1988. He sold his stake in the Auberge in 1993, and at least twice to sell the golf club shares, too. As it turned out, the golf club buyer, a Toronto developer named Jonas Prince, didn't pay. Why? he refused to come up with the \$300,000 in under a second. A second buyer for Prince's shares was finally found—at a not-so-low price—in 1999, after a search by Chrétien's lawyer. The new purchase price flowed directly to Chrétien's family holding company, although the Prime Minister says he had never taken back possession of the shares from Prince.

All this would be of little interest except that Chrétien lobbied the federal Business Development Bank in 1996 and 1997 to lend money to the son. Chrétien knew by then that he had not been paid by Prince. So the accusation follows: he was using his influence to help the son in order to ensure that the value of the adjacent golf course would not fall until his debt was settled. "Legally, he appears by the documents to have had an agreement to sell his shares in the golf club," says James Ralier, a professor of business ethics at Queen's University. "But then he in fact retained an interest because he wasn't paid for a long time." By coincidence, Ralier lived in Shawinigan in the early 1960s, and he knows firsthand the close connection between the son and the club. "That loan that flowed to the son—concern-

ment had to do with an unpaid debt. The financing reality faced by Day and Clark is that Chrétien's image as an OK guy is firmly planted and will be terribly hard to uproot. "The polling is pretty consistent on this," says David Bricker, president of public affairs at the polling firm Ipsos-Reid. "People don't see the Prime Minister as personally corrupt."

Something vivid and concrete would be needed to seriously undermine Chrétien's image. In the public mind, it's mostly a small but telling detail that captures their attention and even their imagination," says David Mitchell, vice-president of Simon Fraser University and historian of B.C. politics—an arena that provides unparalleled insight into political intrigue. In the scandal that forced B.C. Premier Glen Clark's 1999 resignation, it was a deck built on his house by a friend using a provincial nature licence that made the difference. In the 1989 affair that helped seal Ontario voters on David Peterson, it was

the gift of a refrigerator and a housewarming job from a real estate developer to the premier's top aide that proved memorable. But there are no such obvious props on the stage these days in Ottawa. With only scraps of paper and conflicting claims about what was in the Prime Minister's heart to sustain this faltering drama, the audience is bound to soon turn away. ■



son's gift had the potential to affect not just the value of the son, but of the golf club," he says.

If common sense is all it takes to see the conflict of interest, then why all the fuss about trying to show that Chrétien never did relinquish his golf club shares? The opposition's main aim is to catch the Prime Minister in a lie. He has repeatedly said he sold his stake if he really didn't, then his dissembling must be the foundation of a cover-up. Proving that would inject high-octane fuel into the sparring controversy. As well, if the Prime Minister remained a partner in the club, then perming Canadians he was worried about its value would be much easier than having to explain—over and over—that the alleged conflict of in-

## Police give Hells Angels the gears

More than 2,000 police officers swooped down on Hells Angels and members of affiliated motorcycle gangs in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, arresting as many as 130 people, more than 100 in Quebec alone. At the same time, police also laid 13 new charges of first-degree murder against Angels national president Maurice (Mam) Beaudin.



Guarding Beaudin's house in Cotnamore, Que.

who is already in custody in Quebec facing murder charges in the 1997 deaths of two prison guards. "We're talking about the most important operation of this kind that we've ever had," said Montreal police Cmdr André Durocher. "It's unprecedented."

Beaudin's son Francis, 25, was charged in eight of those deaths. They occurred during the bloody turf war for control of the Quebec drug trade between 1984 and 2000 that the Angels waged against rival bays. Also charged last week in connection with

13 murders was former Angels national president Walter Stadrik, a resident of Hamilton, Ont. Stadrik left the country days before the crackdown—dubbed Operation Springtime 2001—for a vacation in Jamaica. Police, who had him under surveillance, said they had no choice but to let him leave in order not to compromise the impending operation. Stadrik is expected to be extradited. Late last week, police in Calgary also moved against a Hells Angels hangout, arresting 40 people.

## The end of the high life for the Kovals

Ron and Leren Koval, both 51, were sentenced to seven years each after pleading guilty to fraud. The former financiers, who ran the downtown Toronto (King) Health Centre and balked financial institutions of an estimated \$92 million, disappeared in October and were the object of an intensive manhunt until they surrendered to authorities at the Canada-U.S. border at Niagara Falls, in December. Their extravagant lifestyle included sports cars, fine dining and expensive automobiles, even as the financial situation of the centre worsened.

## Water bombs

**Newfoundland's Liberal Premier** Roger Grimes resurrected the controversial idea of exporting water from Gloosene Lake. Federal Environment Minister David Anderson said such a plan could clear the way for foreign to gain access to Canada's freshwater reserves, but Grimes was unresponsive. "If a

man is being offered with the government of Canada, then to be it," declared the premier, who says he would use the proceeds for education. Grimes also had harsh words for his predecessor, now federal Industry Minister Brian Tolan, who is against water export. "He abandoned any right to have a direct say in public policy with the provincial government," said the premier.

## Depression in Canada

More than 7.8 million Canadians sought medical help for depression last year—a 36-per-cent increase over the past five years—according to data from IMS Health Inc., a private health-care information company. But that does not necessarily mean more Canadians are depressed. Dr. Stanley Kutcher, head of the department of psychiatry at Haldimand's Dalhousie University, notes both physicians and the public now have a better understanding of the disorder. He added, "It does not carry the same stigma seen 10 or 15 years ago."

## Clearing the way for a lawsuit

The families of three young people who burned to death in a 1998 fire when one of them fell asleep while smoking won a major victory against Imperial Tobacco Canada Ltd. Justice Peter Gunning of the Ontario Superior Court ruled that relatives of Philip Ragoosman, 16, his niece Jasmine, 3, and his cousin, Ramona, 15, could go ahead with a survivors' class-action lawsuit even though the Montreal-based cigarette manufacturer had argued it was not liable for careless use of its product. But Gunning—believed to be the first judge to permit such a case to go forward—said it was plausible to argue the company sold a product it chose not to make safer.

## Transit strike still rolling

The five-week strike by 2,000 Calgary transit workers seeking a 12-per-cent pay increase over the next three years entered a tense stage when private buses began ferrying commuters into the downtown core. The buses, which cost the city \$2,000 a day, run during morning and afternoon rush hours.

## Bail resigns

Gen. Maurice Baril, 57, chief of the defence staff, Canadian Forces, will retire in July. Baril, who was born in Saint-Albert de Warwick, Que., joined the Forces in 1964. Since replacing Jean Boyle as chief in 1997, Baril launched major internal reforms, including overhauling the military's justice system, bringing in a new promotion procedure, appointing an ombudsman and replacing 80 per cent of the senior officers.

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Edited by Stanley David



**A** celebrated British playwright Alan Ayckbourn admits to occasionally getting writer's block, but with more than 60 plays published it's clear his brains don't let very long. "Like any writer, at my greatest best," says the 61-year-old native of Scarborough, England, who usually needs about three weeks to write a play. "Once I've finished a show or a script, I feel like I've emptied the vat and that there's nothing left. Then some sort of culture media to the wall."

Last night, Ayckbourn was in Toronto to direct the CBC production of his 1996 musical *By Your Side*, which trans-Canadian Heath Lambert and features music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The play is scheduled to air during the 2001-2002 TV season. This is a rare North American visit for Ayckbourn. "Broadway and I haven't talked for years," he laughs. "We have a similar language, but the perception of comedy is very different here." Broadway and winter's bleak be damned, the 42-year theatre vet knows his shows will always go on.

**E**lisha Cuthbert has put in her time as a good role model. For three years, she's been sharing life knowledge—most of it *Pop*—with *Mean Girls* Kaiti Knight up until the last she shows last fall. Cuthbert was investigating things like how to choose a man, manure matters, and why you should also be a little regular. *Are You Affected by the Dark?* Cuthbert has played the daughter of a guinea in the Disney movie *Meet the Parents*. She's also had her good-girl turn in *Mean Girls*. And she's a *Clash* host. She's also the head of her good-girl train. This Sunday, Cuthbert plays a teenage gambler in the *CITY* novel *Lucky Girl*. Her character, Kaiti, is a composite of real-life teenage gambling addicts in Canada. Seventeen-year-old Kaiti is off on her peppy parties as dropouts and quickly moves to casinos and hotels. "I think it's the darkest thing I have ever done," says Cuthbert. "The less I get into, the better."

The Calgary-born actress recently completed high school in Montreal and is now living on her own in Los Angeles. Last week, she started working on a TV pilot, *24*, in which she plays Kiefer Sutherland's rebellious teenage daughter. Gauthier finds being away from home for the first time a bit rough. "The first month, I was feeling like a mouse," she says. "Now, I feel a lot better. But I still take to say another every day." The habits of a mind read model are hard to break.

When young country-character-actress Kasey Chambers sings lovingly about the "southern kind of life," it's not the southern United States she

mean. Despite her convincing Tinseltown persona, the 34-year-old rising star is referring to South Australia—specifically a remote and desolate stretch of the Outback known as the Nullarbor Plain, where she grew up. Life in the bush was not exactly as seen on *Survivor*.



Chemistry in the classroom

spent around a campfire singing gospel and country songs. By the time Kasey was 10, the Charmbians were touring Australia on the *Dead Ringer* Band. Now, Kasey is winning acclaim in Canada for her assumed role to debut, *The Gypsies*, on which she's joined by her father, Bill, and brother, Nash, 26—her mother, Diana, handles the business end. How, then, does the mother her daughter has replaced? "There was no television or radio on the Nullarbor," she explains. "The only thing I ever heard growing up was the music my dad loved by Johnny Cash and Hank Williams." So much southern roots, then, no matter the continent.

# AGONY ON THE FARM

By Barry Caine in the Lake District

**A** Tick How Farm, in Cumbria beside Lake Windermere, Alan Irvine is feeling besieged. For the past month, he has monitored foot-and-mouth disease's steady approach, watching with mounting despair as the scourge has crept over the hills and down the valleys of England's western Lake District towards his 300 acres. He runs a herd of 300 ewe sheep and 60 head of Lancashire breeding cattle on his farm, once owned by writer Beatrix Potter. None of Irvine's animals has yet contracted the disease. "But it's only a matter of time, now," the 59-year-old blazes ominously while a visitor strolls down a path of disinfectant at his farmyard gate. "A month ago, the thing was 40 miles north. Last week, it was 10 miles away. Now, it's us." He throws a glance upward, towards the surrounding fabled hills. "What of it," he mutters, "it's up there, on the fells. And that's danger."

Since foot-and-mouth first struck the country five weeks ago, more than 800,000 cows, pigs and sheep have been either slaughtered or condemned to slaughter in an attempt to halt the spread of the disease. This is over the number of animals that died in 1967, when the disease last swept over Britain. Despite the carnage, the number of cases continues to rise, surpassing 800 last week, with some estimates projecting a final tally of more than 5,000 cases. Many are concentrated in Devon, in the English southwest, and in the northwest in Cumbria, among Alston Irvine's neighbours. "We're surrounded," he says, sitting in the living room of his

part of the Lake District here is the rarely celebrated scenery. William Wordsworth's poems or Beatrix Potter's tales of Peter Rabbit. The Hewitons, currently 75,000-strong, are hardy creatures, trained to the harsh climate and rough pastures of the uplands. Born black, they lighten with age, eventually acquiring white faces and blue-and-tan coats. They have been sustaining the fells for countless generations, so long that they have acquired instinctive knowledge of the rocky, inhospitable terrain. They possess a herding ability—passed on from cow to lamb—that allows them to wander as much as 65 km without ever forgetting the way back to their home farms. In the parson of the Lakes, the instinct is called "leading" or "herding."

Safely, it is the Hewitons' inherent capacity to freely roam that may now spell the breed's doom. Last week, foot-and-mouth struck up in a herd of Hewitons at Black Hall Farm on the fells in the Duddon Valley, less than 16 km from Windermere's famous cottage at Grasmere. Given the breed's wanderlust, British ministry of agriculture, fisheries and food officials are now facing the possibility of contagion in the entire Lake District herd of 75,000 Hewitons, never mind any lowland sheep, cattle, pigs or deer that may have contracted it there. "A mass cull of the Hewitons would be a tragedy," says Irvine, who cares no sheep of his own on the fells. "I suppose you might be able to save some breeding stock, but I don't know how you'd ever get the survivors to develop their herding instincts. That might take a lifetime or two."

But it is not only the small farmers who find the prospect daunting. Cumbria's Tourist Board already estimates that the Lake District is losing \$22 million a day in a direct result of foot-and-mouth. "And the last thing you'd like to see is the disappearance of the Hewitons," admits Christine Kenyon, a spokeswoman for the Lake District National Park Authority,



Stung by cancelled bookings and the lack of visitors at the very beginning of the tourist season, the national park's staff is currently working on a package of programs and activities to attract tourists, "help them things around by Easter."

Both Irvine and his wife have doubts about that happening. The couple own roughly 60 per cent of their annual income most from traditional agricultural pursuits but from tourism at their farms on the outskirts of the village of Hawkshead. There is a six-bedroom cottage, on the slopes below their farmhouse where Potter once wrote, that in normal times commands \$650 a week to the family budget. In the farmhouse itself, there are two on-site bed-and-breakfast bedrooms, each capable of retaining \$45 a night. "We were fully booked for the spring and summer," Clare Irvine gleefully notes. "When foot-and-mouth hit, the phone did not stop ringing with the cancellations. At the moment, we have a single reservation on the books, for a week in July."

In the meantime, the Irvines are struggling. The couple managed to sell most of this year's spring lambs, shipping them to market the day before the announcement of foot-and-mouth. "We were lucky with the lambs," says Alan. "But not so lucky with our calves." He is currently feeding some 30 calves that should have been sold by now, but cannot be moved under the regulations the government has im-

posed to deal with the emergency. "Those calves were supposed to have paid back the money I borrowed from the bank to buy winter feed," he remarks. "It's not quite broke yet, but I am in difficulty. And the longer this situation lasts, the worse it is going to get."

So far, there are few signs indicating an end to Britain's foot-and-mouth crisis. Not 50 km north of the Irvines' beautiful farm overlooking scenic Windermere, more massive events unfolded last week. They took place beside an abandoned airfield on the outskirts of Great Orme, where the British authorities dug a gigantic ditch. Under military direction, thousands of dead sheep were craned into the ditch and headed down with disinfectant.

Nearby, more sheep were being slaughtered, put to death by electric bolts through the head. An overpowering stench of putrefying flesh hung in the air, heightening the horror. "So much death, such a waste," murmured Gen. Michael Jackson, former chief of NATO's forces in Kosovo and now commander-in-chief of British Land Forces, after an inspection of the site last last week. Down at Tick How Farm, Alan Irvine would certainly agree. Should the Cumbrian farmers' worst fears be realized, his own animals may soon end up in the ditch at Great Orme—or one much like it somewhere else. ■

## The horror intensifies as foot-and-mouth disease continues its sweep across Britain

350-year-old farmhouse, while wife Clare, 28, serves afternoon tea in a study cottage. "We've been making the most of a map with dots. The dots are all around us now, getting closer and closer."

Most worrying of all for Irvine—and for all of the Lake District farmers—has been the outbreak of foot-and-mouth on the fells, at the Lakelanders call the rugged pastures on the higher slopes of the region's hills. The fells are home to prized Hewitons sheep, a unique and indigenous breed, as much a





Washington  
**Andrew Phillips**

## Reward or punishment

**I**t is troubling, not to mention disturbing, to contemplate the reaction that the governor of Massachusetts received when he told his state he was moving on—to become George W. Bush's personal driver to Ottawa.

In *The Boston Globe*, columnist Brian McGeary wrote that folks already suspected there was something "fundamentally strange" about their governor. "Point proven," added McGeary, "as he prepares to vacate the most powerful political office in the state to be the ambassador to Canada." Ouch.

The *Dallas Herald*, not usually a fan of Paul Cellucci, praised the 52-year-old governor as a good choice for the job, but its editorialists could not refrain from adding: "We confess a certain bewilderment at trading in the governorship for a diplomatic posting in a not terribly exotic part of the world." Once again

France, Côté's own Paris. We know that that was still persuade Cellaux to leave the bright lights of Beacon 1988 (the man whose promoter in Boston) for the dull little backwater up north? He's certainly well qualified. As governor of a major northeastern state since 1997 (and lieutenant-governor for seven years before that), Cellaux has led trade missions to Canada, learned the ins and outs of cross-border issues like energy and trade, and met the key players, at least in fluent Canada. So the U.S. Senate is expected to confirm him this week (Jose Helms, who presides over such things, has given his blessing), in time for him to accompany Bush to the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City on April 20.

It *thurs* took me been smooth sailing. Three years ago, he hosted Lucien Bouchard in Boston and learned firsthand the perils of dipping a toe into Canadian constitutional waters. In an offhand remark to reporters sipping along behind the Quebec premier, Colucci allowed as how one would probably *corse* just fine if the province ever did become independent. The over-predicative Quebec media took to blow that up into a *quasi-enrichment* of argument. For Colucci, it was a sobering reminder of the exquisite sensitivity of the Quebec-Corleone relationship—and a timely warning to steer clear of that perilous *hor* patch. “The poem,” says Mary Clancy, Canada consul general in Boston. “He was just devastated. He’s never do that again.”

Cellucci is also—and this is important—a genuine insider with the Bush team in Washington. As long ago as 1980, when he was a junior member of the Massachusetts legislature, he co-chaired the presidential primary campaign of George Bush Sr. in his state. Barbara Bush campaigned in turn for Cellucci in 1998. And Cellucci was an early and enthusiastic supporter of

the presidential bid of George W., who for reasons best known to himself likes to call the governor "Pablo Cellosoch."

What's more, Cellucci is an old pal of Andrew Card, chief of staff in the Bush White House. They came up together in the state legislature as Massachusetts Republicans from the small-town, middle-class wing of the party (as opposed to the patrician, Harvard Yard wing). There's little doubt that he'll have direct personal access to the people who count in the administration.

Sounds good, but it isn't the whole picture. In fact, when you look at the political and personal means that Calhoun is leaving behind in Boston, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that

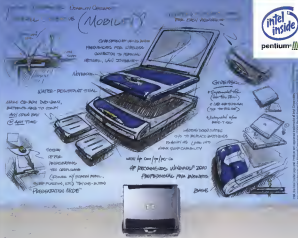
He's gotten out of town one step ahead of the sheriff. There's his phony name, Larry—at an all-time low last fall. There's his complicated personal finances—including debts that (according to the Globe) totalled some \$1.2 million at one point, including tens of thousands in high-interest credit-card debt. There's his expensive tastes: \$50,000 in restaurant meals charged by Cellucci and three aides to his campaign credit card (despite the fact that there isn't any actual campaign going on). Says Rosen: "Boscon observes that even wondered how Cellucci will make ends meet on an ambassador's salary of \$210,000, a pay cut from his job as governor."

There's more, including his association with a host of dubious Boston unions and business figures. It's a tangled down that led the weekly *Boston Phoenix* to write recently about Collins: "He can be asked about it in either from one ethical quagmire to another." And then there's evidence from the Big Dig, the massive, almost unbelievably expensive effort to reroute the highway through downtown Boston, underground. Costs have spiraled from \$12.5 billion to a staggering \$22 billion, making it the priciest public-works project in U.S. history. On March 20, the state's inspector general reported that top state officials (possibly including Collins himself) were sold off far back in 1994 that the final bill would be \$9 billion higher than they had promised—but kept it a secret from taxpayers and bondholders. The governor dismisses that as "pure fiction," but the investigators have just begun.

So the call from the White House may have come at a very convenient time—or so goes the drinking in Cellucor backyard. The governor, Brian McGreevy writes in the *Globe*, is sleeping down because he "was searching for the next bus out of a town where the future doesn't burn very bright." Next stop: Orwello. It may not be Shakespeare—but it sounds a lot safer.



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## An impassioned plea

Twenty-three Zapoteco rebels fled into the legislative palace in Mexico City to deliver an impassioned plea for lawmakers to pass an Indian rights bill that would give the country's 10 million indigenous people the right to self-rule. The rebels, who began an unarmed march from the southern state of Chiapas on Feb. 25, have been fighting for self-rule since 1994.

## Bloodshed in the Balkans

Fighting between the Macedonian army and ethnic Albanian insurgents spilled over into neighboring Kosovo, killing two people and injuring 16. So far, three people have died in the battles, which began in February when rebels began to create an independent Albanian state moved from Kosovo into Macedonia. There, Albanians make up 25 per cent of the country's population; in Kosovo, currently part of Serbia, they are over 90 per cent.

## Confronting the past

Polish investigators uncovered a mass grave containing the bodies of 1,600 Jews who were killed by their Polish neighbors in the village of Jedwabne during the Second World War. The Polish government's decision to apologize in July for the murders has divided the country, where most people believe Poles never aided the Nazis' drive to eradicate the Jewish population.

## Blood diamonds in Canada

Police believe criminal gangs are smuggling so-called blood diamonds from several war-torn African countries into Canada to circumvent international embargoes. The diamonds are sold on the black market to raise funds to finance civil wars in Africa.

## Terrorist mastermind caught

Abdelmajid Dhoumane, an associate of alleged terrorist Ahmed Ressam, was arrested in Algeria. U.S. investigators believe Dhoumane and Ressam, an imam in Los Angeles, were part of a terrorist cell in Montreal. Ressam's lawyers claim Dhoumane is the mastermind behind a plan to blow up buildings in the United States during celebrations to enter the year 2000.

## Arrest of Atomic Dog

French police arrested James Charles Kopp, an extremist anti-abortion activist known as Atomic Dog, in the post office in the village of Denain, a tourist town in France. Kopp, 46, was on the FBI's most wanted list in connection with the Oct. 23, 1998, murder of Barrett Slepian, an Anshert, N.Y., doctor who performed abortions. Kopp allegedly shot Slepian with a high-powered rifle through his kitchen window.

The international mainstream greeted assassinations when FBI agents tracked Kopp to Ireland. Just as agents were about to arrest him, Kopp vanished on March 12, apparently fleeing with a fake passport. The FBI then tipped French police after tracing Kopp to Denain through their investigation of a New York City couple who allegedly sent the package he was



Slepian supporters after his murder. Kopp (left) attacks

picking up in the post office. (The couple was also arrested last week and held without bail in New York on federal charges of harboring a felon.) Kopp also wanted in Canada in connection with the shootings of three doctors who performed abortions. Like Slepian, they were shot while in their homes, but they survived the attacks. As week's end, Kopp was in jail in Rennes, the capital of the Brittany region, awaiting an extradition request from the United States.

## Rage and death in the Middle East

Israeli planes bombarded military bases belonging to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's security forces after a suicide bomber killed two Jewish teenagers in Qalqilya, 80 km north of Jerusalem. The strike was Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's toughest response since he took office on Feb. 7, and it followed three days of bombings that left five Israelis dead. But Arafat vowed to condemn the Palestinians' six-month-old uprising, and thousands responded by burning Israeli troops with stones and guns to yet another "day of rage."

## A former dictator under police siege

In a night of drama and chaos, ousted Yugoslav police commander Slobodan Milosevic was taken to the residence of Slobodan Milosevic, in an attempt to serve the former Yugoslav leader with an arrest warrant late last week. Bodyguards

and a Yugoslav army unit that had been protecting the compound repelled the assault with automatic gunfire, wounding at least two. Milosevic is wanted for corruption-related charges at home and on war crimes charges by the International Criminal Court in The Hague. As week's end, Milosevic remained in his compound, insisting he will not be taken to prison alone.

# THE TRIALS OF JOHN ROTH

By Katherine Mackinnon

John Roth has been showing off his bad side. Lashing out at his critics, he comes across as cranky and irritable. Clinging to his \$135-million stock-option package, he appears arrogant. And he's in what is a sleep-deprived territory, with his overbrows "you'd think we covered a recession" comment. But when he says unforgivable media coverage is what he regrets about the past few months, the president and chief executive officer of technology mega-power Nortel Networks Corp. shows just how widely he is missing the point.

Since the stock hit its peak last July, Nortel's shareholders have lost a collective \$325 billion in value. The damage isn't limited to a small, elite class of investors. Through their mutual funds, pension plans, retirement savings plans and other investments, Canadians of all stripes and ages own a piece of the country's largest, most famous company. At the end of February, according to Morningstar Research Inc., Canadian mutual funds alone held eight per cent of Nortel's stock.

## Nortel's chief, like his stock, fights an image problem

All of these stakeholders have felt the wonder and euphoria of ballooning wealth, and then its slide and abrupt collapse. As Nortel's price climbed towards the stratosphere, and even as it tumbled, Roth maintained that Nortel was untouched by the devastation occurring in the tech field. Through the fall, through December and January, Nortel—and the vast majority of analysts who cover the stock—reported that the company was doing just fine, thank you very much. Investors, both lay folk and many professionals, bought the story. As Toronto-based market watcher Bill MacKenzie, president of Fiermont Proxy Monitor Corp., says, the company was "priced for perfection."

Nothing in business, though, is perfect. A month after the shock of its first earnings warning, Nortel last week set off a new round of alarm bells when it said it is lowering its expectations, again. Now, Nortel says it is likely to lose 15 to 17 cents a share, instead of six, in the first three months of 2001. The company also pulled the planned initial public offering

*The CEO leads out a new round of alarm bells*

of its fibre-optic components business, with Roth saying an IPO would "put us on the floor" in a depressed market. Predictably, the stock continued to fall, and at the end of the week, hit a miserable \$22.24, a fall 82 per cent off its summertime high of \$124.90. The news carried a double whammy: not only do current earnings look worse than anticipated, the company said it can't tell when's coming next.

Next morning, then, was Roth lashing out at the media, telling a reporter that "like *everything* of Nortel by the *Canadian press*" was *scaring investors* and *wouldn't do the company any good*. What's really getting to Roth is his recent *misread* image problem. The CEO, whose credibility engineers along with Nortel's market capitalization, is now just another man scrambling to keep his business intact as the bottom falls out of the tech market. Nortel has been knocked off its pedestal—and Roth made out like the clothing-challenged emperor, in linen cut suits, "doing a Roth" has become a verb of phrase that means pulling a 180-degree about-face.

In his heyday, if Nortel happened, the whole market got drunk. The company commanded more than a third of the 300 composite index last summer; now, it occupies less than a

third (though it is still the biggest single component). The technology giant is suffering from the same miserable bug as all the other technology mega-cos—a filtering reality in the United States—and the most serious symptom is that it can't see. Roth, adopting marketese, calls it "past visibility into the duration and breadth of the economic downturn."

For a company the size of Nortel, this is a big problem. The Bloomberg, Cnn, *Business Week* and *Forbes* will soon have a horizon to make up plans. While Roth likes to refer to Nortel's troubles, it is a bit of a huge ship in rocky waters, and not easy to turn around. While the sailing was smooth, it was easy to look ahead, after all, Nortel was a solid company and a leader in its field. It still is—none of that has changed. But circumstances have. And given the way Roth has communicated to investors, that has made all the difference in the world. At the very least, Roth stands accused of badly managing the disclosure of Nortel's firm earnings warning. Less forgiving investors are joining day-trader suits in droves.

Yet while last week's news was dramatic—New York City lawyer Anthony Manno, one of those assembling a class-action suit, calls it "a dagger to the shareholders"—some people are just numb. Says Bernard Caldwell, president of

Toronto-based money manager Caldwell Securities Ltd., "I've got a Zen-like peace about this thing." Caldwell, who says he was probably among the crowd calling for Roth's head in February, is following his nose. "I'm still ripped at management," he says, "but I don't know the best way to fix it. It would be a management change." Roth's No. 2, chief operating officer Clarence Chaudron, is on medical leave due to complications from a 1997 stabbing attack in Singapore, and the company's chief technology officer, Bill Hesse, left in January to pursue "other opportunities"—factors that may make it impossible to demand Roth's departure.

Roth has a couple of other problems—neither of which are likely to help his image. Nortel, along with banks and other large companies, is the target of a campaign to change the way top executives are paid. The powerful Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board has passed calls for a revision of the company's stock-option plans instead of granting options that

## SHRINKING CLOUT

Nortel's share of the TSX 300 composite index



Source: Morningstar Research Inc.

have to figure out how to hold on to the talent without affecting financial performance. Firms seldom and loquaciously come off the board like this—my other reason why tech options, which don't, are so popular.

Roth's biggest challenge will be joining his company's share price. Because it was among the last to crumble, Caldwell says, it is likely to lay the pack out the high-tech sector's recovery. Though many regard Nortel as a solid firm with superior products, the stock went rebound until the company has credible earnings and some ability to forecast what's coming. Until then, Nortel will have trouble attracting positive reviews. "Anytime," says Caldwell, "will give you a taste of the risk."

Ironically, at a recent industry event for *Internet Success*, where pre-polluted press are hauled out, Nortel cleaned up. The awards were delivered in February last dominated last statements, will believe Nortel's spectacular resilience into shareholder hell. They checked a long list of boxes of categories, including best overall investor relations, best investor relations by a CEO, and best investor relations in the United States, all of which went to Nortel and Roth. Given Roth's off-puffing style, now that his company is under attack, it will be a real surprise if Nortel figures it all in the awards next year. ■

## Flying the changing skies

Canadian air travellers may feel they have a lot to complain about, but there is no shortage of airlines trying to make them feel better. Mach-typeed Boon Air began flying last week on routes between Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto, offering black-leather designer pilot seats and gourmet food to its prime market of wealthy luxury-class business passengers. The new carrier, owned by Skyway Airline Inc. of Toronto with a majority stake held by Falcon reader Boon Canada Ltd., will add Edmonton and Montreal in June.

And the country's second-largest airline, Canada 3000, grew again when it confirmed it would buy fledgling Canjet Airlines from BNP Group International Inc. of Halifax for almost



Kinane, expanding the No. 2 carrier

\$7 million in stock. Toronto-based Canada 3000 Inc., led by hard-driving president Angus Kinane, had only just swallowed another discount operator, Royal Airline, in January. But 3000 remains only about a 10th the size of Air Canada, which took the brunt of passenger criticism recorded by new air travel complaints commissioner Bruce Hood in his first report last week. Poor service, delayed flights and lost luggage were the most common gripes.

## No more Extasy for True Blue lovers

Those who live by television must die by television—in terms of entertainment, anyway. Satellite service Bell ExpressVu was compelled to shut down two pornographic TV channels after CBC's *The Fifth Estate* revealed that the U.S.-based company was showing obscenity material that went beyond even Canada's corporate standards for hard-core fare. ExpressVu president David McLellan argued that his service had failed to properly oversee its content, and permanently pulled the two pay services, Extasy and True Blue.

## Financial Outlook

To consumers, the future is not looking so rosy. For the second consecutive quarter, the Conference Board of Canada reports that its index of consumer sentiment has fallen. Most consumers believe there will be fewer jobs in the next six months, and this erosion of optimism is driving down consumer confidence. "Employment setbacks scare people," says the board's chief economist, Jan Frank, noting that February's numbers showed a decline of 24,000 jobs. But Canadians still have confidence in their own financial positions. Only 17 per

cent of respondents to the board's survey feel their situation will get worse over the next six months, while a whopping 83 per cent believe their income will either stay the same or improve.



## Inco's cleanup

The Ontario government ordered Inco Ltd. to clean the soil of 16 properties in the town of Port Colborne, Ont., after local people named the Toronto-based mining company and the province's environment ministry in a \$750-million class-action lawsuit. Residents allege Inco's former 200-hectare nickel refinery leaked cancer-causing toxins. They cite environmental tests showing high levels of nickel and lead contamination in the soil.

## Clothing sale

Toronto-based Dyles Ltd. sold in 266 BWay assets and 74 Farwestair outlets to the privately held U.S. company Harford Wolf Group Inc. The \$70-million all-cash deal ends more than 72 years of business for a retailer that was, at one point, Canada's largest with 700 stores, including Tip Top Tailors, Thriftys and Bestmats. Dyles CEO Philippe Vexier said Harford intends to keep the remaining chains in business.

## BioChem deal delayed

Industry Minister Brian Tobin is holding up an agreement between Montreal's BioChem Pharma Inc. and Shire Pharmaceuticals Group PLC of Britain to merge the two companies. Shire said Tobin was not satisfied that its \$5.9-billion, all-share takeover was "in the best interests of Canada." Insulin and Ontario wound research and development operations to stay in the country.

## Consolidating insurance

Manulife Financial Corp. bought eight per cent of its smaller rival Canada Life Financial Corp. of Toronto in what could be the beginning of a consolidation race when ownership limps disappear next January. Manulife, also based in Toronto, disclosed the move in a filing with U.S. regulators.

## E-billing boom

An alliance of major banks launched E-route Inc. to provide click-and-pay Internet billing for clients such as Bell Canada and the credit union of Ford Motor Co. of Canada. The service, which eliminates paper bills for those who sign up, will compete with Epost, whose owners include Canada Post.

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**CHRYSLER**

## Giving movies a voice

Millions of North Americans go to the movies every weekend without giving it a second thought, but millions more are denied the pleasure. They are the deaf and hearing impaired, who must usually wait months for video releases with subtitles. But the Real Window Captioning System is changing that. Installed in 59 theaters in 21 U.S. states so far, it allows individual sets of subtitles from their seats. Advocates for the cause in 10 North American with hearing loss hope to see it in Canadian theaters soon. "Realtime captioning," argues Kris Nichols, a co-ordinator for the Canadian Association of the Deaf, "must be considered a basic service and installed in all theaters regardless of location."

Real Window Captioning was devel-



Subtitle system for the deaf, no waiting.

oped in part by Boston-based WGBH, the largest U.S. public broadcasting station and a pioneer in closed captioning. Equipping a theater costs as little as \$12,000. After paying to see a movie,

the patron is loaned a small, translucent panel with a goose-neck handle that sits in an ordinary cup holder on a seat's screen. The panel can be adjusted so it appears at the bottom of the movie screen. At the back of the theater, mounted high on the wall, an electronic billboard lights up with the actors' words written backwards. The text is selected like a mirror on the panel at the patron's seat, but does not interfere with other people's view of the movie. In Canada, theaters chains Famous Players and Cineplex Odeon say they are evaluating the system.

## Road burner

Need a CD burner, but want to take it from place to place? Sony's Digital Relay CD-RW combines storage and portability nearly as stylish hardware about the size of a paperback. The 5000 battery-powered unit, good for about two hours of use on a charge, allows users to save music or data on recordable CDs, as well as play CDs, CD-ROMs and MP3 music files. It could be used for laptop users while travelling, or for transferring large amounts of data between desktop computers in different locations. While the Digital Relay's reading and writing speeds are slower than built-in burners, it can be linked to any computer with a USB connection.



## Digital Honolulu

### COOL SITE

## Focused on cameras

There is no shortage of sites to walk cameras through the perils of buying a digital camera. But at [www.oneworld.com](http://www.oneworld.com), a digital camera resource page, the reviews are thorough without being cluttered with confusing technicalities. Compensos charts are clear and easy to navigate, while a "decision guide" asks visitors questions about their needs, and suggests camera models within a person's budget range.

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## 2000/2001 Shortlist announcement The DONNER Prize

The DONNER CANADIAN FOUNDATION is pleased to announce the exceptional titles that have been short-listed for the third annual Donner Prize, the award for best book on Canadian Public Policy.

- **Alan C. Cairns** for *CITIZENSHIP: ANOMALOUS PEOPLE AND THE CANADIAN STATE* (UBC Press)
- **David R. Cameron and Graham White** for *CYCLING INTO SILENCE: THE CONSTITUTIONAL TRANSITION IN ONTARIO* (UBC Press)
- **Kay Coates** for *THE MARSHALL DECISION AND NATIVE RIGHTS* (McGill-Queen's University Press)
- **Tom Flanagan** for *PAINT NATIONS? SECOND THOUGHTS* (McGill-Queen's University Press)
- **Daniel Mulvin** for *HEAVY TRAFFIC: DECONGESTION, TRADE, AND TRANSFORMATION IN NORTH AMERICAN TRUCKING* (UBC Press)
- **Paul Mulholland** for *RETIREMENT FROM GROWTH: ATLANTIC CANADA AND THE NEGOTIATED STATE* (McGill-Queen's University Press)
- **Bl. Morrison & Rainer Knopff** for *THE CHARTER REVOLUTION & THE COURT PARTY* (Broadview Press)

For further information, please contact: Peter Blomgren, The Donner Prize, Tel: (416) 692-7179 Fax: (416) 694-4325 or Email: [donner@utoronto.ca](mailto:donner@utoronto.ca)

After decades behind bars, how can aging, ailing inmates adjust to life in the real world?

# GROWING OLD INSIDE

By Robert Sheppard

For most people, old age is prison enough. But for those growing old inside the clang of the penitentiary gates—head counts four times a day, tiny freedoms parolled out like a child's allowance—doing time has a whole other meaning. Prison is still a young man's gig: the average age of those in federal institutions is 34. But in the past decade, the inmate population has undergone a striking transformation: the so-called older offender—in Canada's case, those over 50, their health often ravaged by hard living and drink—comprise the fastest-growing group of federal convicts. Their numbers shot up dramatically in the early 1990s. And while Canada's prison population peaked in 1996 and has since declined, along with the crime rate, the number of older inmates continues to grow, spooking corrections officials and



Editor: "To keep a man in prison when you know he's going to die... I've learned to dole out."

lending some of the country's jails the air of a nursing home.

Overlook the circus, if you can, and the situation isn't without poignancy. In Abbotsford, B.C., for example, an innovative new program at the Sarcee Community Correctional Centre has trained younger ones to look after their more infirm colleagues, shepherding wheelchairs and changing diapers in the night. One of those being helped is 76-year-old Joe Belile, crippled by age and diabetes and serving an indeterminate term as a sex offender. Just last month, Belile inhabited the more-bought bedroom set of his 84-year-old co-habesitant at Sarcee, another old con who succumbed to emphysema and didn't want to leave the world on an institutional mattress.

At the Isabel McNeil maximum security prison for women in Kingston, Ont., a 68-year-old grandmother of two with soft blue eyes and a winsome smile is one of 24 aging women scattered through the women's myriad jails. Cautious of having someone to kill her common-law husband, she has spent the past 12 years inside "just keeping busy," she says, filing papers or scrubbing floors at the nearby Kingston Penitentiary, and sewing pillows from discarded clothes for her fellow inmates. In those years she can apply for judicial review of her sentence, the so-called flimsy hope dataset. If that doesn't work, she will have to serve 10 more years before she is even eligible for day parole.

Behind bars, older offenders tend to be model prisoners, officials say. They are content and, although 75 per cent are serving their first criminal offence, they're quick to adapt to the institutional way of life. But—and it's a big one—they are also among the most violent offenders. 79 per cent are in for everything from vehicular manslaughter and murder to sexual assault and pedophilia. What's more, they are costly. Because of health-care and other needs, elderly prisoners can be three times more expensive to maintain than younger ones, rubbing resources from other areas and causing controversy priorities. We Canadians say we believe in rehabilitation. But if we came to the view that prison are not the place for the elderly and infirm, we

would be prepared to share already hard-to-find nursing homes with those who have spent half their lives in jail.

In this country, the plight of the elderly offender is not the priority it is in the United States, where the so-called war on drugs and multiple life sentences have nearly two million Americans behind bars—a staggering one-quarter of the world's prison population, by some estimates. There, the number of prisoners over 55 has ballooned by 750 per cent over the past 20 years. Not to aging, frankly, the highest priority of Correctional Service Canada, which has other worries—including the proliferation of prison gangs, guards accused of smuggling cocaine and an embarrassingly high rate of Aboriginal inmates. But with 1,544 older prisoners in federal institutions and another 1,899 on parole—16 per cent of Canada's federal prison population—correctional officials are scrambling to put a finger on the dial.

Two years ago, CSC set up an Older Offender Division, headed by up-and-comer Marie-Arlette Drouin, to assess the situation and recommend changes. And community programs like LifeLine, a 10-year-old system in which 11 men on parole help newcomers adjust to the outside, and LINC (Long-term Inmates Now in the Community) are turning more attention to the special housing, medical and psychological needs of the 60- and 70-year-old parolees.

Still, LifeLine's efforts and experienced halfway houses like Sarcee are the exception, not the rule. There are no parole officers who specialize in the needs of the older offender. And in hard-edged prisons like Kingston Penitentiary, New Brunswick's imposing Dorchester and Montreal's Archambault, older inmates can be seen *soliloquizing* along with their walkers or negotiating the mazes of units with oxygen bottles in tow. In the most elderly group, 175 inmates over 65 are incarcerated in federal institutions. The oldest is a woman, 89, the oldest man is 84. And correctional officials are desperate to make some of a new phenomenon: elderly inmates who don't want to leave even when they can. Over half (835) of the older population have remained in jail past the point

where they are eligible for full parole. "There are many reasons for this," says Douin. "But clearly some are saying, 'My family is here now. I reach prefer to die in jail than outside on a sidewalk somewhere.' That's the real reality."

Prison is not the place to grow old. In the early 1980s, Corrections Canada launched a determined assault on the convict code, the harsh rules by which inmates policed their own conduct. The problem with that: the assault was largely unsuccessful. "They knocked the iron right out of the prison subculture," says Giles Flett, a 50-year-old parolee from Mission, B.C., who has spent almost half his life behind bars but that left the older prisoners more vulnerable, says Flett, because there was no longer the internal hierarchy as the natural aspect that the older ones were accorded.

Today a number of men and women of female told *Montreal*, older inmates—and their families—are often vulnerable to intimidation and extortion. "Young guys don't have to hit an older man to intimidate him," says Steve Camp, 52, a former heroin addict and armed robber who is chairman of the life's group at Westwood minimum security institution in New Brunswick. "You've just got to act nuts. I used some tobacco. You'll better give it to me. That kind of stupid stuff." A tough-guy weight lifter, with a nose that's been broken more than once in prison fights, Camp says, "A lot of the old guys lived it better in the old days because the lines were more clearly defined. They call the younger guys predators."

Not surprisingly, anxiety is a way of life in prison. Some studies have found depression and suicide rates particularly high among older inmates. But of the 129 prisoners who killed themselves in federal custody during the 1990s, only 10 were over 50. "The older guys have two fears," says Mike Corbett, the warden at Westwood. "They fear dying in prison. And they fear getting out." Even the toughest of the men are not immune.

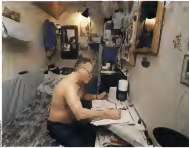
Jim Elder is the self-proclaimed grandfather in Warkworth, a 62-year-old minimum security institution near Peterborough, Ont., and even at 64 he looks the part. He has been in reform school and jail pretty well almost since he was 14. The tattoos that cover much of his body are an embarrassment today—"A stigma of doing time," he says. "I'd wash them off if I could." He's never had parole and he doesn't expect to. He's also seen plenty of death on the inside.

"I've seen a number of people who come into prison after rape and are dead today," says Elder, who is serving time now for second-degree murder, in an accomplice in the death of a male prostitute. "Some are dead from AIDS, some from hanging themselves. Some are just dead from a broken heart. They

just gave up. If you go down to the hospital bus, or the back part, you'll see six to eight inmates lying there, waiting to die. There's something wrong with that picture. To keep a man in prison when you know he's going to die, when his chances of being a threat to society are long passed. To me that's not right. I'm scared to death of that."

But if dying in the pen is a frightening prospect, so is getting out, especially for old-timers. Many convicted crimes of a violent or sexual nature, often against family members. So their families are not willing to support them as parole time. Also, the job skills that prison teaches are not geared for those with just a few years left in the workhouse. Some have been in so long they don't know what a movie is. And of course there is always the stigma of being an ex-con. Jimmy D, a soft-spoken

## Old inmates—and their families— are often vulnerable to intimidation and extortion



■ A cell in Kingston Pen, where anxiety and boredom rule

62-year-old, is trying to rebuild his life after 20 years in prison for killing his common-law wife and her boyfriend. He used to have his own small business. He recently found a temporary job driving a forklift in the warehouse of a retail chain in Toronto. His supervisor urged him to apply for a permanent position. But after Jimmy filed out the application and the company did a background check, he was told he was no longer needed.

Even for those with a supportive family, adjusting to the outside is not easy. Michel Duro, 48, spent 17 years in some of Quebec's most notorious prisons for killing his business partner in an unprovoked rape in 1978. A former lawyer, Duro said he found peace with himself in prison and had come to terms with what he had done. His wife was waiting for him when he

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

**JIM ELDER, 64, Warkworth prison, Peterborough, Ont.** I have served time for the second degree murder of a male prostitute

"Ten years, if you stabbed a guy in prison that wasn't acceptable. If you didn't stand up and fight a man straight up, face to face, you weren't a man. That's not the way it is today. You don't see two guys fighting. You see 10 guys jumping on one guy."

**MICHAEL DOSTROVICH, VORHESSTON, 55, Warkworth** Time served: five years for multiple sex-related offences

"The only a either we do here or we go back to our communities. How do you want to be back? An emboldened old man whose one of one will right? And we will be incredibly little. Or do you want to be back as responsible working participants in society?"

**OLIVIER FLETT, 50, Mission, B.C.** on parole since 1992 after serving 14 years for the shooting death of a store manager during a Biko's holdup in Scarborough, Ont.

"Prison is an environment that is very judgmental. There is a capital punishment in prison. I've seen a lot of brutal things. The young people coming in today don't have any role models. When I first came into jail, you looked up to the old guys. The aging population today is much more vulnerable than before."

**MICHAEL DURO, 48, Montreal, on parole since 1996** after serving 17 years for killing his law partner

"We are an people for life. We have to be more than perfect. I can live with it. I know I could be dead if I was from the United States—maybe they would have put me in the electric chair. So I am thankful to the Canadian people to have given me the chance to come back and do something good with my life."

got out. He had even worked when he was inside as a bartender and managed to put money aside. But freedom brought its own special challenges. "You don't recognize people," says Duro. "There is a big hole of 17 years on my CV." He came to a realization three months after getting out. "I said to my wife 'I was better inside. I loved my peace.' I took me one year and a half to get back on my feet," says Duro. "And it was that difficult for me, what is like for people without family or support or friends?"

Other aging parolees, after long terms in the shanties, offered similar stories. How they had to learn to drive all over again (one took over 50 hours). How they would get the sweets in crowds or crossing the road—trying to gauge the speed of the cars. How, after years in lighted cells and dimmed yards, one of the biggest psychological adjustments was just going outside in the dark.

For some, like 76-year-old Mario Tavolara, now living quietly in a modest Victoria apartment, prison was his family. When he was first arrested at 12 for robbing a toy watch, the older veteran at the county jail in Dorchester, N.B., "became my friends, my brothers and my fathers," he says. "They kind of adopted me." Upon release, he stole something again to earn himself a man's visit and separated the parents in seven provinces and across the United States. Needing release from a U.S. prison, he wrote threatening letters to the White House on two occasions, pulling first a three then a six-year sentence for the price of a stamp. Freedom is fine but he's lonely, he says. "I've been thinking lately on going back."

At the Montreal chapter of *LifeLine*, Gilles Thibault, a life who has been on parole for 13 years, says: "There are two speeds in jail—slow and stop. When you go out, life is so fast, it is so hard to take the rhythm of the outside world. Frequently, people do eight or nine years and come outside when freedom is near. Imagine people who do 20 or 25 years. They don't have help from the system. So people like us can help them before we're lived in."

Should older prisoners be allowed parole when they reach a certain age, regardless of the length of their sentence? Not surprisingly, most of them say no. What's the point, they say, of turning

Canada's prisons into glorified nursing homes, especially for those who are not inclined to offend again? But that presumes, of course, that there are more than just law-and-order services in the general community to help aging prisoners adjust. For its part, Corrections Canada says it does not control release policy; it is those only to manage the resources that the courts and Parliament have imposed. Compassion only release is available to any inmate, regardless of age, dying of a terminal illness. But those cases are not very rare. And those in authority are only now trying to turn their minds to this problem.

Next month, Corrections Canada has scheduled a high-level internal review of what to do about the growing number of older inmates. Douin is proposing special training for corrections staff and considering older prisoners in certain regional centers where caregiver programs might be set up. She would also like to see more halfway houses in the community geared exclusively to the older parolee, places that would almost substitute for nursing homes and allow for a longer transition to the general community.

Parliament, too, is taking notice. A recent justice committee report recommends that older offenders be considered to have "special needs." It's a designation that already applies in legislation to women and aboriginal peoples (who are rarely overrepresented in the prison population) and last, for example, to the Supreme Court of Canada ruling in 1999 that natives may be sentenced to less time for the same crimes as others.

But the number of justice giant slowly The wheels of older offenders appear to be leveling off, although an internal study says there may be a uptick again in slow-year "Hedgehogs," says Douin. "Hedgehogs" are "only going to get worse before it gets better." Canadians eliminated the death penalty 25 years ago, substituting instead longer sentences. Overlooked at the time was that some people would grow old in jail, and that for an increasing number of growing seniors—for reasons that are all too human—death will still be the only release

With John Gillingham in Mississauga and  
Nancy Brumwell, Jeffrey Smith and  
John Nicol in Ontario and Quebec,  
and Kim MacQueen in British Columbia

# NOT A COUNTRY CLUB

Most inmates do hard time behind twin rows of razor wire



For two nights of special coverage this week on The National, CBC News sent crews to prisons across the country to explore the state of punishment and rehabilitation in Canada. Now, the nightly news program's senior correspondent describes a prison system undergoing fundamental change.

By Brian Stewart

The wake-up call in Kingston, Ont.'s Joyceville Penitentiary echoes down the bare corridors like a train's rumble. At precisely 7 a.m., keys clink, heavy steel doors swing open and the "offender population," as the warden proudly calls the 650 inmates, shuffles into the half-life of another prison day. A few prisoners breeze briefly with guards, others stop to complain. But rules must be followed. Most know how to keep movements slow and unobtrusive enough to become almost invisible. "Don't be a fly on the wall," was once advice. "Be the wall."

The morning's winter light barely makes it through thick-placed windows. In the heavily dimmed air there's little sound but the clattering of steel on steel and the squeak of sneakers. Joyceville is unmistakably prison-dreary. You've never plumbed the depths of the word "drab" until you've explored deep inside a prison system. But it's also an intriguing, always troubled world we rarely get more than a passing glimpse of. Canadians hold strong views about our prisons, but know profoundly little about them.

When I first visited jails as a reporter in the '60s, the system could threaten cops with the

lash and still tested the gallows for possible future use. Yet I've never known a time when we were not fearing that prisons were coddling the cops. Polls find we're concerned we send fewer people to jail, for shorter terms, than is actually the case. "We tend to think our prisons are softer than they are. It's definitely not a pleasant place to be," says veteran correctional officer Roy Trimble, who sees everything from riots to suicides over 22 years. "If only a member of the public could imagine sitting in a cell, day in and day out," he says, "having to smell the smell of everyone else on a range, not knowing if someone is coming up behind you, going to smelt you or worse. No, it's not pleasant."

Contrary to widespread belief, only a minority of prisoners, those considered the lowest risk, are in the minimum security institutions that are often termed as the "mugshot" "Club Fed's." Eight out of 10 prisoners are doing hard time

behind twin rows of razor wire and guard towers in places like Joyceville, or the even tougher "Maximums." Inside Joyceville, cops have only limited freedom to attend inside classes, workshops or therapy sessions. Trying to kill time seems the same deadening routine it was a generation ago.

Thursday lies the inspect cell, built 40 years ago. I'm struck by how much more claustrophobic they are than they seem in pictures—essentially a grey concrete cube the size of a small bathroom. Our penitentiaries are remarkably small, few holding more than 500 prisoners, compared with the 5,000-person concrete gothic in the United States. They're also safer. But Canadian cops are monitored far more closely, by CDs and networks of motion cameras. "Over the years, prisons have become more oppressive," says psychologist Paul Gendreau of the



Life in Joyceville, Special Handling Unit. Six-Arms-and-Pistols, Qm, Hops: "If only the public could imagine sitting in a cell, day in and day out."

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WEEKEND NEWS.

CBC Newsweek Today: Saturday with Sandra Stewart and Carole MacNeil. 12 noon ET/PT a.m. PT.

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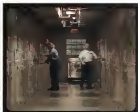
## All pens are plagued by illegal drugs, ethnic tensions and organized gangs. Guards, understandably nervous, demand more surveillance

University of New Brunswick, a leading authority on prisons and punishment. "There's an excessive amount of electronic monitoring and they seem even more Orwellian environments."

Joyville, like all pens now, is plagued by illegal drugs, ethnic tensions and organized gangs. There are around 1,400 gang members in Canada's prisons, and guards, understandably nervous, are demanding still more surveillance. But prison life can easily sound more hard than it often is. I notice positive changes, too. As I'm shown around classrooms by warden Donna Moxin, I'm reminded there were no women guards in male pens when I first visited prisons. Only one warden even had a degree, and that was in agriculture. Now, all staff are much better trained, and occasional officers—the good ones truly impressive—are as much conscientious and conflict resolution as key names.

In the early '80s, Lance McClung was part of a new wave of young Canadian criminologists entering the system. After two decades of studying criminals, as parole officer and warden, he's now, at 46, in charge of the system as commissioner of corrections. "We've learned a lot over the last 25 years," says McClung, who boasts of the system's success in getting offenders back into society. A man of many studies, she insists, shows that longer, harsher prison terms don't lessen the chances of re-offending. But such innovations as cognitive-skills training—which forces criminals to face responsibility and control their anger and impulsiveness—can make a real difference, especially when combined after parole.

"The criminal mind," says McClung, "does not operate like yours and mine. What would work for you in terms of deterrence will not work for the offender." Referring to the typical criminal's complex mix of narcissism and self-hatred, she says they



Woke-up time in Joyville; inmate search at Stony Mountain Institution near Winnipeg (below) how is it possible to confine, punish and repair at the same time?



Canada's Canada is regarded as about the best in the world. As I watch the cell doors slamming that that night, I know I've seen too many prison reform waxes come and go, and enough bold promises broken, not to be skeptical. But an often closed, scandal-scarred system now feels it has to open more doors to give an unprejudiced look inside. We should take it. ■

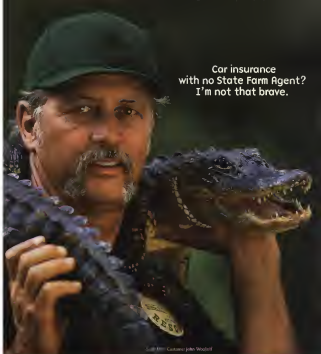
"Think they have all the power in the world to do what they want, and that's the first thing you need to address."

Prisoners who need to drift through long sentences are now prodded to make plans and life decisions. There is more pressure on them to reform. And almost 70 per cent of those who leave federal prisons don't re-offend—a rate twice as high as 20 years ago, and claimed to be the best anywhere. Most fade back into anonymity. "When people tell me to get harsher," McClung snaps, "they are telling me, without knowing it, that it's OK to jeopardize our results in terms of protecting society."

Inside prison you sense the old struggle. How is it possible to confine, punish and repair at the same time? "You're never going to get it 100-per-cent right," observes Tony Cameron, head of the Scottish prison system, "but the Canadian system gets it about as well as it's done." Europeans are just introducing similar cognitive-skills training, he says, and "everyone asks, what are they doing in

CBC NEWS

Brian Stewart reports on prisons on The National on Monday, April 2. The following night, the CBC will air a three-hour special: Inside Canada's Prisons, as the main network and Newsworld. It is repeated on Newsworld on Sunday, April 3.



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## On the trail of a killer

Once a week, Josef Penninger joins a group of fellow soccer enthusiasts for a game, often famously contrasted, in a Minnesota, Ore., recreational league. "I have a reputation for being very competitive," says Penninger, 36. "I go out for several days after every game." The Austrian-born scientist is equally determined in his day job as a medical researcher at Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital and the city's Argen Research Institute. In a little over two years, Penninger has chalked up a string of findings that could eventually yield new treatments for diseases ranging from cancer to osteoporosis. In yet another major discovery, a team led by Penninger last week shed light on a major biological puzzle by fingering a likely

suspect in the destruction of cells in heart disease and stroke, Alzheimer's disease and other debilitating neurodegenerative conditions. If scientists can find a way of turning the process on

### Researchers discover a key to the mystery of why cells die

and off, says Penninger, "this could be a magic bullet for many diseases."

The discovery, published in the journal *Nature*, drew praise from other scientists. "It's a crucial finding," said Jane Roskams, a developmental neurobiologist at the University of British Colum-

bia in Vancouver. "He's demonstrated a brand new pathway for determining the life and death of cells."

Penninger's breakthrough could eventually lead to new drugs designed to prevent or treat diseases by passing the "off" switch for the phenomenon known as apoptosis—biologically regulated cell death. Another possibility: halting cancer by switching the apoptosis control to "on" and blocking the runaway cell growth that breeds tumours. Apoptosis has a beneficial role—it is the biological tool that helps shape a developing embryo by, for example, snipping away unwanted cells from between a baby's fingers. But for medical researchers, the primary goal has been to understand—and perhaps control—the destructive side of apoptosis. In the early 1990s, scientists identified a group of enzymes as agents of cell death, but suspected that was only part of the answer.

In February, 1993, Penninger and a French-based colleague pinpointed another culprit—apoptosis-inducing factor (AIF), a protein that they suggested assassinates cells by fragmenting the ge-



Penninger (right) and researcher Takahiko Sanuki: the "off" switch for cell death

Hertford's McMaster University. "we may be able to manipulate cell death."

Penninger's track record has made him one of the world's hottest scientists. The breakthroughs included discovery of a gene responsible for triggering bone loss in osteoporosis, findings implicating a common cold virus and a type of bacteria in some heart diseases, and the discovery of a protein on blood cells that can shut down the growth of cancerous tumours and the onset of some autoimmune diseases.

Predictably, Penninger's success has brought job offers from more than half a dozen research institutions in the United States and Europe. But he says he has no plans to leave. "I don't want to change the winning team I have here," says Penninger. The next goal: gaining mastery over apoptosis—and transforming the treatment of some cruel diseases.

Mark Nicholas

netic material as their core. To test the theory, Penninger's team bred mice without the gene for producing AIF, and found that embryonic mice did not develop because they were immune to apoptosis signals. "This proves that AIF is the real deal," says Penninger. "It's the executioner."

Still, some researchers questioned

whether AIF is also involved in diseases. "Penninger's focus has been on fetal development," says Vancouver's Roskams. "More work will be needed to find out whether AIF is involved in diseases like stroke—which might well be the case." If scientists can derive a drug capable of blocking the AIF gene, said Jack Gaddis, an immunologist at



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# The Kids Are All Right



According to a leading sociologist, most of today's teens will turn out just fine

By Brian Bergman

*Teens are cool. Children no longer obey their parents, and everyone is writing a book*  
—Roman scholar and statesman Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BC)

Ronald Bibby writes when he's sad and the quote and informed of a 2,000-year-old pollster. "That's it," he says between sips of coffee at a hard cleft in his home city of Lethbridge, Alta. "It's that age-old anxiety. Every generation of parents is concerned that the coming generation is going to turn out worse than the last one, and it doesn't seem to ease up. We are constantly worrying about young people."

The University of Lethbridge sociologist, one of Canada's foremost interpretation teens, has another reason to find worry in Cicero's musings: he's just written a book, *Canada's Teens Today: Reckless and Fearless*. To be released next week by Stoddart Publishing, Bibby's study is based on exhaustive surveys he conducted on teens and adults as far back as 1975 and as recently as last fall. The book provides a rare glimpse into the teenage psyche, ranging over such familiar preoccupations as sex, drugs and violence, and delving into such relatively uncharted territory as spiritual beliefs and sports preferences (page 67). But as its title, *Canada's Teens* reveals that a large majority of today's young people value home life, hard work and material success. In short, they are not so very

different from the adults who constantly fret over their future prospects. *At last, Bibby is telling parents and grandparents. The kids are all right. They are going to turn out just fine.*

In the age of Columbo, Enigma and Internet walking, such conclusions are reassuring—even revolutionary. Translated as today's teens are by a popular culture that revels in violence and casual sex, it's easy to believe that the suburban, mainstream generation parents have been dreading at least since Cicero's days is finally upon us. That impression is reinforced by such recent

## COVER

Hollywood hits as *American Beauty* and *Taffy*, in which sulky, suburban teenagers are depicted sneering into their own world of morbid self-absorption, united mainly by a longing for all things adult.

But listen to some of the teenagers canvassed by Bibby for this article. "I adore them a lot," Stephen Bailey, 15, says of his parents. The Grade 10 Halifax student particularly admires the way they go to work all day, come home and work around the house and are still not overwhelmed by it all. Devin McCarthy, a 17-year-old Grade 12 student from Ottawa, has this to say about parental discipline: "Parents need to know when it's best to put their foot down. A lot of kids will think they know what's best for themselves, but they are pretty inexperienced in a lot of things. You can learn a lot from a parent if you are willing to listen."

The sound you hear is thousands of parent joys dripping. Yet according to Bibby's latest survey, Bailey and McCarthy are far

▲ *Alisa Cowling (left), Stacie Kichen, Caitlin Watson, Vanessa Yip, Bill Yong: a study of 3,500 Canadians aged 15 to 19 shows that they value the same things their parents do—family, music, humor*

## Teens hold many of the same attitudes as adults about sex and drugs, and are behaving the way Mom and Dad did as youths

from being in the minority. Adult-onset teen sources of experience, teens judiciously put friends (54 per cent), music (50 per cent) and their own peers (73 per cent) at the top of their lists. But Mom places a respectable fourth (73 per cent) while Dad finishes seventh (62 per cent), behind dating and sports but ahead of television and computers. Fully 91 per cent say the way they were brought up is the main influence, while 71 per cent agree with the statement "I want a house like the one I grew up in." And despite the popular image of teens as rebellious and scornful of adult authority, 56 per cent of 16-to-19-year-olds concur with the premise that "discipline in most homes today is not strict enough."

That is not to say all is tranquil in the teenage trenches. Adolescence remains a time for testing boundaries—and, in many cases, parental patience. As well, Bibby notes a significant drop, even from a decade ago, in the value teens place on traits such as honesty, politeness and forgiveness. There is increasing concern among teens about the level of violence at school, and more than 40 per cent of respondents say they have a close friend who has been severely depressed or attempted suicide. "Let's not retreat words here," Bibby writes, "there has been a disturbing decline in the quality of life of many teenagers."

All the same, Bibby finds that when it comes to two of the bigger concerns for parents—sex and drugs—teens hold many of the same attitudes as adults and are behaving much the way Mom and Dad did when they were young. In fact, one of his most intriguing conclusions is that adults and teens value many of the same things, including family life, music and humour. It's just that in their behavior of the other side. Seen in this light, the much-worried generation gap is more perceived than real. There is a great deal, it seems, we have to learn about each other.

In *Canadian Teens*, Bibby tackles several daunting questions: Are today's teens different from earlier generations of young people and, if so, how? Are there aspects of teen life adults should worry about and others where their concern is unwarranted? The book draws on a confidential survey last year of 3,500 high-school students, aged 15 to 19, from across the country. Bibby also relies on similar teen questionnaires that formed the basis of his two earlier books, *The Emerging Generation* (1985) and *Teen Truth* (1992), as well as a series of high-profile national surveys of adults he has done every five years since 1975, many of them focused on cultural and religious trends. In his most recent surveys, Bibby



Teenager: "want adults to talk to me still trying to figure out what the hell they're going to do"

also asked the parents and grandparents of today's teens to reflect their own teenage years. What emerges is a fascinating collage of adolescent attitudes over several generations. Among the hot-button issues:

### NO SEX PLEASE, WE'RE TEENS

One of the first things inquiring (adult) minds want to know about, of course, is teenage sexual behaviour. At a time when television screens are filled with programs such as *Sex and the City* and *The Sex Files*, and when sex education and birth control have never been more accessible, there is the implicit assumption that teenage sex is on the rise. Not so, according to Bibby's latest survey, about half of today's teens are sexually active, as are half as not—while fully 41 per cent of teens say they are virgins (page 58).

Adrian Chellis, who has worked as a teacher and guidance counsellor in the Winnipeg school system for 23 years, does not find these stats surprising. He respects many adults will. "We tend to forget those 50 per cent who are not sexually active," Chellis told *Maclean's*. "Some actually wonder if they are the strange ones. But that's not the case." Ryan Benson, 15, a Grade 10 student in Toronto, agrees. Benson says he has not had sex yet and would only do so if the way his current relationship. "As for the media saying all these kids are having sex," adds Benson, "I would say about 98 per cent of my class have not."

Bibby's take on sex and teens is that activity levels jumped dramatically during the so-called Sexual Revolution of the 1960s and early 1970s—and have remained relatively stable ever since. Ironically, his surveys reveal that when it comes to sexual mores, today's teens are slightly more conservative than their baby-boom parents—perhaps reflecting the aspect of relatively new sexual scourges such as AIDS. Among teens, 82 per cent ap-

proach sex more cautiously than their parents, and 61 per cent agree with cautioning adults doing whatever they want usually, and rise per cent are in favour of carnal relations. The corresponding approval rates among boomers are 89 per cent, 71 per cent and 18 per cent. Predictably, the one time this trend reverses is when respondents are asked if, conversely, 15- to 17-year-olds should be allowed to do whatever they want usually. Fifty-six per cent of teens say yes, compared with only 21 per cent of their parents.

### LET HE WHO NEVER TOKED . . .

Bibby's surveys reveal teens have never before had such ready access to illegal drugs. Seventy-seven per cent of respondents say drugs wouldn't be hard to find if they wanted them—for many, it's easier than buying alcohol. This is just as true if legal as it is if downed. In fact, all the same. Bibby notes, a majority of teens are declining to indulge. Even with the most popular drugs, marijuana and hashish, 65 per cent of teens say they never partake, and only 14 per cent describe themselves as regular users. For other drugs, including ecstasy and cocaine, the usage rates drop dramatically, with 86 per cent saying they never take them.

Bibby adds baby-boom parents to recall the level of drug use in their own years. Forty-eight per cent say it was either "very common" or "fairly common." When it comes to drugs, teens Bibby, "it's not clear teens differ all that much from their anxious parents in what they were doing at that age."

In other words, let he who never toked call the first stone. The teens interviewed by *Maclean's* agreed that drugs are readily available. But they also say that, like their parents before them, they are making individual choices about whether to use them. Fritz McInerney, 18, is a soft-spoken, self-motivated and high-achieving daughter of Edmonton parents who immigrated to Vancouver eight years ago to give their children a shot at a higher future. McInerney, who is a practicing Muslim, says some of her friends drink and do drugs, though most, like her, do not. "While some peers try to fast-track their bar, add McInerney, "I'm pretty strong. Once you say 'no,' they get it through their head and change the end off." As for those who do indulge, she is philosophical. "What they choose to do is cool. I never try to impose my beliefs or my way of life on anybody."

Another British Columbia teen—an articulate, athletic member of his district school council and an occasional pop smoker—feels the same way. "I do well in school," says the Grade 11 student, who for obvious reasons doesn't want his name revealed. "So if you want to tell me I'm killing my mind, I wouldn't argue. It's like anything else: it's moderation," he says.

## Papa and 'pop sociologist'

When Bernard Bibby accepted a teaching position at the University of Lethbridge in 1975, he was concerned he might become your average invisible academic at a relatively small institution. He wasn't home worried. From his post in southwestern Alberta, the 58-year-old sociologist has become Canada's foremost thinker of religious trends and an outspoken expert on teen behaviour and attitudes. Two of his earlier books, 1987's *Fragmented Gods* and 1985's *The Emerging Generation* (the latter co-authored by Don Posner), sold about 30,000 copies each—phenomenal for works centered on academic research. With the publication of this work of *Canadian Teens*, *Today, Yesterday and Tomorrow*, his eighth book, Bibby returns to one of his favourite topics—the need for teens and their parents to better understand one another. "If you want to re-

talk about two subcultures in this country," says Bibby, "it's about young people and adults."

Bibby comes by his professional passions honestly. The second of seven children, he was born and raised in Edmonton as part of a devout Baptist family. Bibby went on to earn a theology degree and attended at one point to become a minister. But he found himself drawn to sociology and later earned his PhD from Washington State University. While Bibby continues to describe himself as a person for whom faith is important, he is no longer active in any religious group.

Strikingly, Bibby's interests in teens, in part, from being the father of three



Bibby: "two subcultures of young people and adults"

grown sons (the boys continue to live with him after their first 1979 divorce). Bibby says his experience of the teenage years was very enjoyable, and thinks it can be so for most parents if they make the right balance between giving teens direction and allowing them to emerge as individuals.

Bibby acknowledges that the very success of his books makes him suspect among some academics, who dismiss him as a "pop sociologist." He is willing to take the knock. "I realized at an early point that, while the work needed to be academically sound, I also wanted it to be enjoyable and widely read." He has succeeded on all counts.

Brian Borgman in Lethbridge

in reference to a drug he considers far less harmful to society than alcohol. He also downplays the impact of peer pressure on drug use. "I know people who do it and hang out with potheads," he says. "I think people are pretty respectful of others' decisions."

Linda Mason, who has worked as a high-school guidance counselor in Calgary for 15 years, says adults are naive if they think teens won't experiment with drugs the way many of their elders did. But Mason adds that students who have high self-esteem are better equipped to resist temptation.

And even among those who do indulge, she finds parental influence sometimes makes the difference between whether their children become moderate users or serious abusers. "As with many things," she says, "the values taught in the home—including respect and responsibility—are vital. Even though kids may fall away, those values will eventually carry them through."

#### THE COLUMBINE SYNDROME

One area where Bibby finds marked differences with earlier generations is the number of young people who identify school violence as "a very serious problem." As well, nearly a third of their report they have a close friend who has been physically attacked at school. In some cases, the perception may be greater



■ McCarthy with mother Karen: parents can teach you 'a lot'

and 58 per cent put a premium on politeness; for adults, the comparable figures are 92 per cent and 78 per cent respectively. Bibby also gives respondents an honesty reality check. He asks them to imagine they just made a purchase at a store and the cashier gives them \$10 extra in change. Do they hand the money back? The generational scorecard: 74 per cent of adults say they would return the money, compared with 35 per cent of teens.

Moreover, Bibby finds that personal traits such as honesty and politeness appear to be progressively eroding. In other words, teens place less emphasis on these factors than do their parents, who, in turn, value them less than their parents. One reason, Bibby speculates, is that moral relativism is becoming a societal crutch. He notes that parents, and especially grandparents, are more likely to see moral issues, including religion, when deciding between right and wrong. By comparison, fully 65 per cent of teens agree with the statement "What's right or wrong is a matter of personal opinion."

Guidance counsellor Chalka and Mason recognize some of the symptoms. Chalka says the term he has dealt with recently are less likely than their counterparts 20 years ago to automatically respect teachers and other authority figures with respect. Mason notes that petty theft has become common in schools, a trend she attributes to a "steeping up with the Joneses" ethos taking hold in society as a whole. "Moms, who has a teenage daughter of her own, adds: "Look, I've been tempted when someone gives me the wrong change, but then, I say 'Hold on, what kind of role model are you providing here?' Kids' values are being shaped by what they see in the adult world."

#### GOD IS COOL

Adults appear to seriously underestimate the interest teens have in religion. According to Bibby's surveys, only five per cent of adults claim spirituality is "very important" to adolescents. In fact, 78 per cent of teens say they believe in life after death, 73 per cent that God exists and 65 per cent that Jesus was the divine Son of God. In what Bibby considers perhaps

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## Young people tend to be moral relativists who don't value honesty as much as their parents do

than the media, since almost 80 per cent of respondents say they feel safe at school. But numbers like the April 20, 1999, fatal shooting of 12 students and a teacher at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., and the fatal shooting eight days later of 17-year-old Jason Lang at W. R. Myers High School in Tabor, Ala., continue to cast a long shadow.

"When Bibby asks parents and grandparents to recall their own school days, they say fighting occurred frequently, but it wasn't usually thought of as 'violence.' In fact, fighting may be less common today—but teens say when it happens, it's often more serious. "In some schools you hear about knives and guns being pulled on people," says Lorenson Bennett. "I know people who are always afraid of a certain person. And they will carry a knife or something to make them feel safe."

#### THE HONESTY GAP

On the matter of personal values, Bibby finds teenagers are a mixed bag. They place roughly the same importance adults do on hard work, intelligence and (believe it or not) cleanliness. But on a couple of key issues—honesty and politeness—they falter. Among teens, 73 per cent say honesty is very important

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## Why is 'teen' a bad word?

In Canada's Teens, Reynolds Bibby observes that some sense of morality is at least the equal of adults—and that the latter group are often guilty of misrepresenting the former. Excerpt

There are some areas where teens are an improvement on adults. One example is the acceptance of diversity. Their grandparents frequently engaged in unconscious discrimination and a fair amount of racial segregation. Their parents thought they had advanced significantly when they disapproved of interracial—which often meant simply not saying the wrong things and saying out of each other's way. Today's teens, especially in larger cities, are interacting at never before and are sensitive to any type of cultural or racial discrimination. Is the understanding and acceptance complete? Of course not. But things have come a long way over the past three generations.

Teens are also showing greater respect for sexual freedom. Contrary to many rumors, teens have personal sexual standards. They don't all have the same views about premarital sex, homosexuality, abortion, cohabitation and children born outside of marriage. But their willingness to accept other people's choices matches that of adults in all these areas. And even though they are divided on the appropriateness of homosexuality, they exceed adults in affirming that homosexuals are entitled to the same rights as other Canadians.

Teens feel they are unfairly misreported. Survey participants were particularly vocal about this topic. One 17-year-old female from London, Ont., comments: "Today's adults don't understand us. Although some teenagers give us a bad name, not all of us are like that."

It is hard to dispute the legitimacy of such complaints. A cursory glance at daily media reports on virtually any subject involving young people makes it abundantly clear that political correctness has not yet been applied to the use of the word "teen." The term continues to be used about exclusively with little regard for the human implications of such misreporting. If any other group reference—such as "black" or "Jew" or "homosexual"—were substituted for "teen" in a headline or as any reference to undesirable behaviour, people would be demanding lawsuits, asking for retraction and appealing to human rights commissions. Yet the media not only routinely use the term but also magnify it when reporting on any number of negative acts, ranging from crime through delinquency to the one who stole the torch at the Olympic Games in Sydney last year.

Such age-related reporting does little to enhance interpersonal relations between young people and adults. A Calgary 13-year-old offers this advice on how things might be different: "The one thing that needs to happen is for open communication, trust and respect to take place between teens and adults." In the insensitive future, it sounds about as elusive as winning an Olympic gold medal.

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the most surprising finding of all, the number of young people who say they attend religious services regularly is on the rebound. Between 1984 and 1992, attendance among teens dropped from 25 per cent to 18 per cent. In the year 2000 survey, it is back up to 22 per cent, roughly the same figure as for adults. "I had assumed we'd just see a constant downward trend," Bibby told Mediacall. "I would have predicted maybe 12 per cent this time." He speculates that the emphasis many denominations are now placing on youth ministries may be bearing fruit.

Of course, even Devin McCarthy is not surprised by these findings. "Kids these days don't necessarily believe in everything the church says, but they are still very interested in religion," he observes. "Many kids are open themselves to learn about it." Mariana Stals, 15, of Toronto, says that like most of her friends she finds church boring. But Stals has personal reasons for believing in God. "When I was 8, my appendix burst and the doctors thought I was going to die," she says. "But I survived. I thought it was a miracle."

In addition to studying teens professionally, Bibby is the father of three young men, now 34, 33 and 31. Like most parents, he has learned that worrying how one's offspring will fare on their own is a constant reality. But his survey of today's teens indicates there has perhaps never been a generation so fixated on personal success.

Bibby finds that fully seven out of 10 teens expect to attend university—a wildly optimistic figure given that, as of the 1996 census, only 13 per cent of Canadians had degrees. As well, 86 per cent expect to get the job they want after graduation and 79 per cent predict they will be better off than their parents. Finally, 71 per cent agree with the statement "Anyone who works hard will rise to the top."

If anything, these are hints that teens are pushing themselves too hard. Almost seven in 10 say they feel pressure to do well at school and are concerned about what they will do after graduation. More than half complain they don't have enough time or money now as they are working at part-time jobs averaging 15 hours a week as well as participating in sports and other extracurricular activities. Karen McCarthy, 44, mother to Devin and three others, aged 13, 15 and 10, thinks her generation of parents may be demanding too much of their children. "We push our kids into every conceivable program, wanting them to be the best at every-



Devin McCarthy, 17, attends church regularly, including electronic services.

thing. Maybe by doing so, we send the wrong message—that we value you for what you produce rather than for who you are.”

Fana Mohamadzadeh and fellow Vancouver teen Nathan Lusignan are among the young people who say the stresses are very real. Mohamadzadeh mimics a recent scene with her friends flipping through their electronic planners trying to find an open evening. “I mean, it’s weird that we all have schedules,” she laughs. “We shouldn’t, but we do.” Lusignan, 16, laments that high-school students are pushed so early into making career choices. “We’re forced to make all these decisions so quickly. I mean, most adults I talk to are still trying to figure out what the hell they’re going to do.”

After so many years of consuming teens, Bibby finds that among their most striking characteristics are an inherent optimism and resilience. While one to three Canadian marriages end in divorce, the children of those broken unions are just as hopeful about the future of their own relationships as children whose parents stay together. Overall, nine out of 10 teens say they expect to marry, have children and stay with the same partner for life. A similar number describe their emotional outlook as “very happy” or “pretty happy.”

But perhaps the biggest news flash for parents—especially those worn down by battles over teenagers’ inalienable bids for more independence—is that young people truly value the time they spend with Mom and Dad. If anything, they want more of it, not less. In many of the comments attached to Bibby’s questionnaires, there is a quiet lament that it’s busy, overextended parents—not teens—who are failing to put a big enough priority on family life. Mason, in her role as a guidance

counselor, hears that sentiment a lot. “Kids are always saying to me they wish Mom and Dad would spend more time with them. They want the parental guidance. They need it.”

Adults who hope readers will take away from his book, Bibby cites two things. First, that anxious parents will take a deep breath and understand that, for all their fears, the vast majority of teens are doing fine. Second, that if adults and teens spend some time getting reacquainted, they might realize how much they have in common, including a fundamental desire to love and be loved. With *Canada’s Teens*, Bibby has done his part. The rest is up to us.

*With John DeMaio in Halifax, Brenda Bonnell in Montreal, Susan McClelland in Toronto and Kim MacQueen in Vancouver*

Read our Web site for links and this week’s poll as teens and us. [www.cbc.ca/teens](http://www.cbc.ca/teens)

## The babe-or-bust syndrome

In *Canada’s Teens: Abides, Unabides, and Tosses*, Reginald Bibby confirms what many are at one of the most disturbing trends in teen life: the tendency for girls to suffer from low self-esteem and to fixate on their looks, sometimes to the detriment of their health. Young people interviewed by *Maclean’s* corroborated Bibby’s findings. “I guess boys have something to do with it,” says Montreal’s Anna Tweeddale, 14. “We worry about

the way they see us.” Marissa Smith, 13, of Toronto is even more blunt. “So many girls today think they are obese, ugly and stupid.” Adds Smith, who is attractive and obviously bright, “I’d be lying to you if I said I didn’t think that about myself.”

While teens have always been self-conscious about their looks, many observe blame today’s popular culture for exacerbating those concerns. “The girls are being sold they have to look terrific, like the models on the cover of the magazine,” says Calgary high-school guidance counsellor Linda Mason. “If they don’t, they are losers.” Too often, adds

Mason, the results include depression, eating disorders and girls taking up smoking as a means of staying thin.

But concern over looks is not restricted to females. “The pressure on boys is very extreme,” concedes Adam Cowling, 17, of Toronto. “There is an ideal man that everyone has to live up to. Like in hip-hop culture—it look like a gangster, a thug, a kind of mean and really cool guy.” On both sides of the gender divide, keeping up appearances has become an unhealthy priority.

Brian Bergman



Teenagers  
gild books on their looks  
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## Many young people lament that it's busy parents who are failing to put a priority on family life



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# Not So Hot to Trot

By Susan McClelland

Friday, 3:35 p.m. March break has just begun, and within minutes the hallways of Toronto's Oakwood Collegiate Institute are almost completely deserted. But the seven girls and four boys gathered in the second-floor student council office aren't in any hurry to leave. It's not that they have nothing better to do—a few are expected at their part-time jobs, while others are supposed to meet up with friends. But all that can wait. Why? Because an adult actually wants to hear their views on sex. And these young people are willing to be late for their commitments if it means the chance to dispel some myths. "Parents think we're all doing it," says 16-year-old Yara Lashbrake. Frankly Iowski, 17, interjects. "No. Every parent thinks everyone else's kid is having sex but their own." The other young people nod their heads in agreement. "But it's just not true," continues Iowski. "Not all teens are having sex."

Wait a minute. This is a member of the generation that catapulted the overly sexual Christian Aguilera and Britney Spears to superstardom? Whose entertainment includes such explicit movies as *Crash*, *Intimacy* and sex-obsessed teen TV series like *Dawson's Creek*? Well, they may live in a highly sexualized culture, but "it doesn't mean we are all sex-obsessed," protests Yara. "The general perception that a lot of adults have about teens is that they can't form their own opinions, make their own decisions, or if they do make decisions,



■ Young love: 'we have a propensity to ring alarm bells'

"We have a propensity," he says, "to ring alarm bells about adolescent sexuality when we shouldn't be."

Several young people told *Maclean's* that they are too busy to become sexually active. Stephen Rahay, a 15-year-old Grade 10 student in Halifax, maintains an A average, takes Korean classes and has a wide circle of friends.

"There are lots of parties, people to hang out with and things to do other than school work, so it's hard to stay on top of my studies," says Stephen. "This is a priority for me. Anyway,

sex isn't some great race to the finish line."

That doesn't mean Stephen thinks sex is taboo. In fact, like many teenagers, his feelings on the subject are quite the opposite. As Bibby found, young people are at least as accepting of premarital sex—and much more tolerant of homosexuality—than their 1980s counterparts. Today, 82 per cent of teens believe in heterosexual sex before marriage if people love each other (and 58 per cent say it is permissible if people simply just like one another); in 1984, 80 per cent of teens felt premarital sex was acceptable. While only 36 per cent of teens approved of same-sex relationships in the 1980s, now 54 per cent of young people support them, and



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**Despite popular opinion to the contrary, only about half of teens are currently engaged in sex**

they're not informed," adds the self-described tuffie, who aspires to become a lawyer. "We definitely do make wise decisions, including whether to have or not have sex."

Such savvy talk may come as a shock to some adults. But what may be more surprising is that Yara and her peers aren't oddities. As Reginald Bibby reports in his new book, *Canada's New Teen: Growing and Transitioning*, about half of the country's youth aren't currently engaged in sex—nearly the same percentage as two decades ago. Alexander McKay, research co-ordinator at the Toronto-based Sex Information and Education Council of Canada, agrees that fewer kids are sexually active than popular culture would have us believe.



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75 per cent believe homosexuals are entitled to the same rights as anyone else.

Although the number of sexually active teens hasn't increased over the past two decades, the percentage of females having sex at a young age has. A study published in the *Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality* last year found that more than 13 per cent of girls in the 1990s had sex before they were 15. This is a big leap from the early 1980s, when fewer than seven per cent of girls had sex before that age (the numbers of sexually active males under age 15 has remained at about 11 per cent since the 1970s).

Another source of concern for experts is the anecdotal evidence that a large number of teenagers engage in oral sex as a substitute for intercourse. "There is this disturbing shift in attitude of oral sex, anal intercourse, everything but..." says Eleanor Marcia-Tyrdale, a sociology professor at Ontario University of Windsor. "People do those two things and still define themselves as virgins." Cathy, a dark-haired 17-year-old who asked that Michael not use her real name, still calls herself a virgin even though she has been at the going-out-of-and sex. "The technical term for sex is when there is penetration," she explains. "The straight-A Grade 12 student contends, "Besides, the president said it wasn't sex, so why should I?"

Cathy and a boy she was seeing for about six weeks last summer would go to a park or his house for oral sex. It didn't matter to Cathy that the boy had another girlfriend—the two were fighting and about to break up (they later reconciled, and Cathy moved on). Cathy says almost all the guys she knows, including him, expect oral sex from their girlfriends or dates. Does Cathy like it? "Not you kidding," she exclaims. "There are things you hate doing but have to do to please your partner." Cathy didn't use protection, although several studies have shown that oral sex can transmit infections including HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. She was never taught that in school, Cathy says, so it never crossed her mind.

Cathy's apparent nonchalance isn't typical. Among the 50 per cent of teens who are having sex, there are some who take it very seriously—like Mike, another 17-year-old who asked that Michael not use his real name. Mike and his girlfriend of about six years had intercourse for the first time last year. The two discussed the subject for nearly a year leading up to the event, exploring their feelings for each other, which Mike says are an integral part of sex but are never talked about in sex-education classes. "I knew I loved her and having sex was a natural progression in our relationship," he says. Before the big night, Mike told his mom what he was

planning to do. "I just thought it was important for her to know and expect that we were moving to the next stage," says the teenager.

Mike and his girlfriend now have intercourse on a regular basis in their families' homes when no one is around, although both sets of parents are aware that their kids are sexually active. The boy's mother, who runs a nonprofit agency, would have preferred her son delay sexual activity, but told Michael she's happy to provide a place where he and his girlfriend will be safe and in control. Mike's girlfriend takes birth-control

**'We definitely do make wise decisions,' says one youth, 'including whether to have or not have sex'**



Scene from *Crash* (left) and the *Dawson's Creek* cast (right). They may live in a highly sexualized culture, but many kids say they're too busy with school, friends and jobs for intimacy

pills. In addition to contraception, the two have one rule: they will never have sex if they have consumed alcohol. "Sex can be a beautiful thing," says Mike. "We don't want to cheapen it by being drunk or a party or something."

These sentiments echo those of the kids from *Outwood*. "Parties are about hanging out with friends," says Aidan Cawling, 17. "They're not about going off, fooling around and having sex." Aidan and some of his pals of both sexes are starting a local coffee shop. Sipping on lattes and coffee mochas, they flip through a fashion magazine, commenting on the models' hair and makeup and the people they find attractive.

With a female guitarist playing in the background, the group discusses their fears about the future—will they get into university, and what will it be like when some of them move away for school? And they chat about their dreams. Bill Xiang, 17, wants to be an engineer, while Carlin Winter, also 17, would like to go into photography or acting. They giggle a lot and really listen to each other. "Hanging out with your friends is one of the best parts of being young," says Aidan. Speaking for many of his peers, Aidan adds that in the future, there will be less time for relationships and sex. But for now, just being with each other takes priority. ■

# The making of a master

Mike Weir just might give Canadians something to cheer about at Augusta on Sunday

By James Deacon  
30,000 feet over Georgia

The twin-engine Cessna Citation II had barely lifted off when the wind started teasing it around. Departing from a private field near Jacksonville, Fla., the eight-seat private jet was broadsided by a thumping gust that knocked the plane sideways for an alarming second or two. The turbulence continued as the aircraft climbed high over the Atlantic shore and turned northwest, then subsided a little when the plane reached its cruising altitude above 30,000 feet. But it turned again again on the descent into Lawrenceville, Ga., the nearest airfield to the BellSouth Classic golf tournament site. The man who had chartered the jet was visibly relieved once it touched down. "I don't know about you," said Mike Weir to the only other passenger onboard, "but that did something to my stomach."

Which raises the inevitable question: what the heck is Mike Weir doing flying around in chartered jets? Well, as he puts on the PGA Tour call him, give up in Blythe Grove, Ont., near Sam's playing hockey in winter and golf on the dry, hazy sun of Huron Ohio in summer, and he might happily have opted to pursue a career at the nearby chemical company where his dad worked. Instead, Weir spent a half-dozen years grinding it out on the world's fringe tours, and had to play the PGA Tour qualifying tournament just 2½ years ago. Which means it wasn't very long ago that he was playing for hundreds instead of millions.



But aside from last week's stomach-turning flight, there haven't been many bumps on Weir's career path lately. Since missing his PGA Tour card for good in November, 1998, he has vaulted into the top ranks of international golf, winning trophies, widespread acclaim and riches beyond anything he imagined even a couple of years ago. That hardly makes him the favorite going into the Masters this week, however. Tiger Woods, coming off victories in his last two starts, is the man to beat at golf's first "major" in 2001. And if Woods signs fellow American Phil Mickelson, South African Ernie Els, Scotsman Colin Montgomerie and Pijun Viji Singh, the defending champion, are joined to poster. Soft, British odds-

makers tout Weir among the next tier of challengers, and for Canadian golf fans, having one of their own given a reasonable shot at the Augusta National is a rare thrill. The country hasn't had a serious contender for the Masters title and its coveted green jacket since the last George Knudson finished second in 1969.

Though new to golf's main stage, Weir, 30, has prepared himself well for a star turn. In 1998, he challenged Woods at the grueling PGA Championship in Chicago, won his first Tour event in Vancouver at the Air Canada Championship, and finished in the top 30 money winners. He improved in 2000, and after winning a spot on the international team at last October's prestigious



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## 'It's funny, but when I played hockey, I played a tough role. I was small, but I loved to hit, loved that aspect of the game'

President's Cup, was the surprise of the event. The internationalist lost to the host Americans, but Weir had perhaps the best week of any player on either team, drawing raves from veteran TV announcer Johnny Miller. "He's a star on the rise," Miller said at the time, adding "He has a good attitude, he's a human guy and he's played like crazy this week." The excitement continued into early November, when Weir won the season-ending American Express Championship in Sonoma, Spain.

The victory was worth \$1 million (U.S.) to Weir, and boosted his earnings for the season to \$2,547,829 (U.S.), sixth-best on Tour. And that doesn't even begin to include endorsement income. A fat wallet allows him the luxury of hiring jets, which get him home faster to his wife, Brissa, and his daughters, Elie, 5, and Lily, nearly 3, in Draper, just south of Salt Lake City. "By buying some time on private planes, I get more time with my family," Weir says. "And it makes it a lot easier when my family is travelling with me. You're not dragging kids and suitcases and stuff through airports."

The most valuable professional benefit from last fall's underplay was the enormous boost to his confidence that Weir got from breaking into the upper echelons of the game. It was one thing to challenge the best, another to actually beat them. At the President's Cup, he won four little-known outsiders to key player on a team that included such big names as Eli, Greg



Weir, Brissa and Eli after the Vancouver area fall-classic

Norman and Singh. At Valderrama, the course in Spain, Weir was sensational in the final two rounds, overcoming an eight-shot deficit to defeat a field that included Woods, Price and many other illustrious names. His drives were laser-like in accuracy on the right, took creased fairways and he punted brilliantly. Now, he gets a different reaction on Tour. "You have arrived," he explains, "when the top players know that when they see it up on TV, you're going to be a factor. In any first couple of years on Tour, that wasn't there."

Kid-friendly for people watching on TV to imagine Weir with the killer instinct necessary to contend, and win, the big events. He appears as mild-mannered, and in interviews he is polite and soft-spoken. It's not an act. "He is the recent guy," says longtime Canadian Tour executive Dick Griener. "But inside, he's got the burn in his gut." Griener was in Augusta to watch Kanadon in 1989, and was commissioner of the Canadian Tour when Weir won the order of merit as top money winner in 1997. And while the winners are different, not the least because Weir is a lefty, there's a similarity in character. "I remember watching George come off the practice tee in '69, and he had his

hands wrapped in handkerchiefs," Griener recalls. "He was having balls even when his hands were bleeding. I think Mike is cut from the same cloth, and guys like that don't come along very often."

Last week in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., offered a perfect example. Weir stayed behind a day after his final round at the Players Championship to work on the back range at the Tournament Players Club. He had not played well at the TPC, so he hit hundreds of balls, placing a huge mirror behind him so that he could

stop and examine his position at different points in his swing. He was there for hours, all alone except for an ushers swooping overhead, looking for lunch in an adjacent hooptie. It looked like a lot of work, but he just shrugs. "The lucky," he says. "I like to practice."

He is a great believer in planning. "I set up a game plan for each golf course and stick to it," he says. "When I stick to it, it keeps me in a good rhythm. When I don't, I don't do well." At Augusta, he says, "You have to have patience, know which pins to go for, and you have to be prepared for the unexpected." He will have plenty of on-course support. His parents and older brothers plan to be there, and Brissa will finally get to see him play the Masters: last year, she had just given birth to Lily and didn't attend.

That reminds him of an interviewer's previous question. "You asked what I liked most about my success," he says.

"Well, for me, the best thing is that I have been able to do some things for my family." For one thing, he took his dad and brothers to the British Open last year. "We stayed at a home there together, we went out to dinner every night, and it was a fantastic experience. I would



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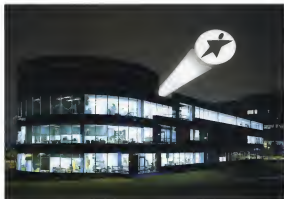
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*The picturesque but treacherous 12th: patience is required*

never have been able to do that before." Otherwise, he is a cautious consumer. "We have a little bit bigger house with a little bit bigger yard, but that's about it," he says. "I have come from struggling for five or six years on smaller towns, so I'm smart with my money, and I'm not going to go and blow it all."

Weir is aware his image differs from his reality. "It's funny, but when I played hockey, I played a tough role," he says on the flight to Georgia. "I was

small, but I loved to hit, loved that aspect of the game." In golf, though, size—he's five-foot-nine, 155 lb—doesn't matter as much as patience and an even temper, and over the years he has learned to control his emotions on the course. And in the last few years, he's been easing off a little on his intense practice regimen. He used to keep working on his game even when he went home, putting constantly on the carpet. "Once you start

having kids, that changes fast," he says. "So now, I leave it at the course."

Besides, practice only takes a guy so far. Golf is a broad game, especially when everything is on the line. Former PGA champion Davis Love III once described the pressure of contending in major championships as feeling like, at any minute, he was going to throw up on his shoes. Thanks to a steady resolve, Weir has kept his foot-joys dry. "Maybe it's because I grew up trying to keep up with two older brothers, but as a kid, I was trying to beat the scores of the older guys," he says. "And I always felt like I had something to prove for some reason." Now? "I don't feel like I have to prove anything to anybody except myself. I have gotten my game to the point where I can play with the best in the world. Now all I want to do is prove to myself that I can win a major. For me, that's exciting." For a lot of other people, too. ■

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Anderson (left). Still: a woman struggling for independence in a rural world.

## Falling from grace

Brian D. Johnson

At the Oscars, everyone said it was Julia's year, and so one believed it more than she did. There she was, telling the bandleader ("Hey, an'canta!") to cool it so she could blink in the moment like a flustered beauty queen. *In Julia Roberts and I'm going to put the world on a field*. Boasting between poems, drama gals and like beauty, Julia marvelled at how even she was stunned by her performance in *Eros* (brothel), then thanked everyone — except Ewan McGregor. I had thought Julia deserved the Oscar, buty the music, without offing, I wasn't so sure. Maybe an acceptance speech should be like an Olympic drug test: an actress who can't act her way through it without a delusional dose of hubris should be stripped of the award.

Seeing Gillian Anderson in *The House of Mirth* makes the justice of Julia's triumph seem even more questionable. This movie, which is just beginning to hit Canadian screens, was released in the United States in time to be eligible



for Oscars. But Anderson was not even nominated, although U.S. critics' polls voted her performance the best of the year — a conclusion I've come to share.

Based on the 1905 novel by American author Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* is the delicately barrowing story of a woman's fall from grace in New York City high society at the dawn of the 20th century. As its tragic heroine, Lily Bart, Anderson plays a woman struggling for independence in a rural world. But unlike Erin Brockovich, Cinderella warrior, she doesn't speak in manifesto or kick butt. She communicates in a sly code, navigating a world where every pleasure is entangled with misadventure.

### The House of Mirth is an underrated gem

Lily seeks a mansion, not a job, but only hope is a rich husband or an inheritance. And so this proud woman is fully outmaneuvered by her own emotions. Anderson delivers a performance that is so subtle and finely modulated that you're reminded just how intricate a motion picture can be.

It was written and directed by British



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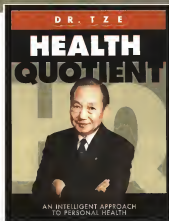
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## Films

filmmaker Terence Davies, best known for evoking painful childhood memories onto tableau miniatures such as *The Long Day Closes* and *Descent Into Hell*, *Still Life: With The House of Merli*. Davies has created an exquisite chamber piece, yet one in which the lush decor does not upstage the characters. As a slow-paced drama of civilized cruelty, the film recalls Martin Scorsese's *The Age of Innocence*, based on another Wharton novel. Davies' camera, however, is quieter than Scorsese's, and there's no narration, just seven-and-a-half hours of dialogue.

Wharton is a latter-day Jane Austen, but darker. Lily, a finishing school's orphaned by a maiden aunt, knows the man first a husband, but is having trouble getting into the spirit of it. In contemporary terms, she's one of those women who is convinced there are no men, although she's surrounded by them. She loves Lawrence Seldon (Eric Slezak), a lawyer, but he swears he's not rich enough for her. Gus Terence, a married financier played with vile precision by Dan Aykroyd, turns her into an investment scheme, then tries to reap a dividend in sexual favour. The blunt Sir Rosedale (Anthony LaPaglia), the movie's only honest character, proposes marriage as a business deal. But it's a woman who turns out to be the most lethal predator: Bertha Dorset (an iconically charming Laura Linney) uses Lily to disorient her husband while she brings him on a Mediterranean cruise.

Lily, says Seldon, "has it in her to be whatever she is believed to be." In other words, she is a good actress, but one who tends to choose ill-advised roles. Anderson, however, has chosen well. In *The House of Merli*, the actress who became an icon of emotional reserve as Scully in *The X-Files* will bring a quiet grace to a story about a woman who becomes a man. But to watch her mouth slowly close the distance to a terrifying line, or to see her coquettish pride give way to despair, is to watch a performance of rare depth. There is, in the end, something eerily familiar about Lily's world. "Men have minds like moral hyppocrite," she says. "They will forgive a woman almost anything except the loss of her good name." Subtitled "lesbian" for "name," and she could be talking about Hollywood.

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Braun (left), Schade,  
performing scenes in the  
world's great halls

# The joy of Rossini & Co.

By John Beaumont

International  
stars—and  
best pals—  
Russell Braun  
and Michael  
Schade come  
back to  
Canada for  
lead roles

In a downtown Toronto music store, the few dozen fans waiting to hear Canadian singing sensations Russell Braun and Michael Schade are just going to have to wait a little longer: the pianist is raising her baby. Finally Carolyn Maule, who is married to Braun, takes her place at the keyboard, and her husband—a tall, charismatic-looking baritone with a mass of dark, curly hair—launches into a Bellini aria from *Senza paura*, the new CD he and Schade are performing. Now in the store can ever have been this close to a world-class singer in full flight, and as Braun powerfully sculpts the Italian phrases, his audience is transfixed.

Then, it's Schade's turn. The sweet, extroverted tenor jokes a little with the crowd before delivering a piercing rendition of an aria from Donizetti's *Elisir d'amore*. Finally, the two singers perform a final duet from Rossini's *Barber of Seville*. They sing like what they are, old and very good friends, spicing their performance with some impromptu comic business involving not a coin (as the opera requires) but Schade's credit card. Beautifully matched, their voices pour out the inimitable joy of Rossini with a facility that betrays Italian summer to the cold Canadian spring.

Schade, 35, and Braun, 36, are two singers at the

top of their game. Last month, Braun picked up a best-classical recording Juno for his CD of Donizetti's *Apollon e Dafne*, while Schade recently won roses for a recital at New York City's Alice Tully Hall. Frequent guests in the great opera and concert halls of the world, the two spend more time abroad than in their Toronto-area homes. But this month, both singers are making rare back-to-back appearances in two much-anticipated productions mounted by their home troupe, the Canadian Opera Company. Braun will sing the title role in *Billy Budd*, the 1951 opera based on the Melville novella, with music by Benjamin Britten and libretto by E. M. Forster and Eric Crozier (April 6 to 19). And Schade will sing the title role in the early Mexican opera *Idemenu* (April 7 to 22).

As an interview with the two artists in the COC's boardroom, Schade quickly proves himself a raconteur of operatic proportions. The more outgoing Schade blows in hot, already turning the story of his search for a parking spot into a comic epic. Then a chance remark about rehearsal times sends him off on a series of hilarious anecdotes about singing at La Scala in Italy. An excellent mimic, he's soon sporting phrases in authentic-sounding Italian, and imitating members of the La Scala chorus as they puff



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## Opera

sway on cigarettes while waiting to sing. Down the boardroom table, Brian chuckles softly at his friend's tales and occasionally corrects him on a factual matter. He seems concerned to let Schade do most of the talking. Now and then, his gaze strays to a wall where there is a photograph of his father, Victor Braun, the celebrated Canadian baritone. Brian died in January of a neurodegenerative disorder, at the age of 65, and it's clear that the singer—with whom Russell had a mutual and complicated relationship—is much on his mind. "It's hard to escape his memory, especially down here these days," Brian acknowledges, nodding his head towards the COC complex behind him.

Schade listens, respectfully, then tells a long story of his own about Victor Braun, with whom he sang on two occasions. In fact, both Schade and Braun talk at length about their families as about their own, and have an almost brotherly sense of intimacy resulting from very similar backgrounds. Both were born into musical clans and spent their early years in Europe. Schade's father, a German locomotive engineer, was transferred with his family to Toronto in 1977, when Schade was 12. The father embraced the city's rich musical opportunities—so this day, Schade's pattern song in the Mendelssohn Choir—and decided to say Michael set out first to be a violinist, then switched to singing in university, eventually studying at the famed Canadian Conservatory of Music in Philadelphia.

Much of Braun's early life was spent on the move as he, his sister and his German mother travelled with his Canadian-born father on the European concert tour. "We often sang in the car," he recalls fondly. "We'd sing in close harmony—spirituals like *When No One's Around*." But Victor Braun discouraged his son from singing professionally. When his parents split up in the early 1990s, Braun moved with his mother and sister to Canada. Ignoring his father's advice, he studied voice at the University of Toronto under mezzo-soprano Patricia Kern. "Kern had a reputation for being difficult and demanding," Brian says. "That's what my father was—difficult and demanding. And though it might sound strange, these were the qualities that attracted me to her." In fact, Kern had sung with Victor Braun. Quickly realizing that the son was trying to mirror the father, she urged Russell to find his own voice. "Without her knowledge of my father's voice," he says, "I don't think I could have found my own."

Brian started singing professionally in the early '90s, but

his busy father didn't hear him perform until 1997. The two sang together a few times before Victor's death, and although Russell allows that this partially bridged the gap between them, he says the birth of his first son, Benjamin, in 1997, was what really "shifted the universe around one whole rotation." Braun senior was delighted to be a grandfather, while the challenges of parenthood helped Russell understand his father a little better. Three months ago, Russell and his wife, who live in Georgetown on the outskirts of Toronto, welcomed the arrival of another boy, Gabriel.

Schade, too, as a contented family man. He and his wife, singer Norine Burgess, are the parents of four-year-old Sophie. The couple own a farmhouse in Oklawaha, in north of Toronto, and rent an apartment in Victoria. Maintaining two homes can be a financial worry, Schade acknowledges, especially when the whole business depends on that notoriously fickle piece of equipment, the operatic voice. Schade recalls the disastrous summer of '96, when because of illness he had to cancel four out of 12 performances at the Salzburg Festival and to lose a third of his income. He lost bought loss of insurance, he says, and hasn't been sick since.

Still, Schade is quick to point out that truly exceptional performances—when voice, audience and the singing gods come together perfectly—are rare. "I'd say that of the 80 or so performances I give a year, maybe five or six are completely overwhelming, something to take home for the memory book." Both singers are vigorous defenders of the Canadian opera scene, which they see as a vital, evolving mix of many styles—and refreshingly free of both the hidebound traditions and sometimes outlandish incoherence of Europe. "It makes me so mad when I hear Europeans say we have no culture, just because we have no buildings older than 200 years," Brian says. "To me, no one's culture is older than the oldest person alive in this country. If people who carry the culture, and in this country we have welcomed some of the finest culture-carryers from around the world."

Both Schade and Brian are planning to put down deeper roots in Canada. They're looking for bigger houses in the Toronto area. "I don't want you to think we're joined at the hip or anything," Schade says, "but we both want houses with a fever large enough to put a grand piano in. We want to get together for evenings of beautiful food and beautiful music—just have some fun. In our business, running around from place to place, it's all too easy to get away from that." ■



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Edited by Susan OA

## Murder in an ethnic melting pot

A beautiful young wife and mother is shot dead while buying groceries on a sun-drenched Toronto street. It turns out she was a respondent at an abortion clinic. But she was also a Croat, married to a Serb. Who she killed by an anti-abortion, extremist? By the Croat boyfriend she had 300 years ago? By Serbs who brought their ethnic hatred with them from the old country? In *Chasing Cars*, a CBC movie airing on April 8 (8 p.m.), director Bob Kadelovik (Peter Outerbridge) and Denise McGowan (Alberta Wascor) solve the mystery. Co-produced by Bernard Zakheim (*Love and Hate*, *Millie Diller Baker*) and Jerry Ciccorini (*Nit World*)—who also directed—*Chasing Cars* is the first in a projected series of movies featuring the same cops, along the lines of *Prime Suspect*. And while the in-sargard melodrama doesn't measure up to its British counterpart—Kadelovik and



Ottawa (left), Wascor, mostly

McGowan are intriguing characters in a barely partnership, but *Chasing Cars* is largely satisfying. The filmmakers, including writer Andrew Rai Berzins, have created a moody drama filled with snappy dialogue, a colourful assortment of creepy characters and a vibrant sense of ethnic downtown Toronto. *Chasing Cars* doesn't invent the TV murder mystery genre, but it does transplant it compellingly to a new locale.

Patricia Hickey

## Voice to be reckoned with

Hips has a way of overwhelming talent. That was never a problem for the Candy Gifford but, unfortunately, she was overhyped wherever she sang in her home town of Washington, just as a video breakthrough seemed imminent, Candy died of melanoma in 1996, at 33. Now the singer is getting wider recognition. *Semphor*, a con-



tinuation of her pop, blues and gospel-influenced career, has sold about a million copies in Britain. Like *Semphor* (the new *Time After Time* [RCA Sound/Traxx III]) is a revelation. Candy's versions of numbers like Bill Withers' *And No Sunshine* and Cyndi Lauper's *She's a Woman* are masterfully original. Really has a singer covered familiar material with such heightened emotion.

Nicholas Jennings

## Painterly pride

Robert Simon might have found a point on the back of Corn Flakes boxes. The sixth of 19 children born to poor parents in Big Cove, New Brunswick's largest native reserve, Simon would tear off the flaps and flatten out the boxes, then work on the blank side. And until his death in January 2000, at the age of 45, the Mi'kmaq artist drew on these memories of poverty as inspiration for his powerful images of native strength and pride. From April 6 to 29, 23 of his paintings will be featured in a memorial exhibition at Fredericton's Gallery



Simon's *Roaming Horse* strength

78. Though he struggled with severe arthritis for his entire adult life, Simon never stopped painting. His works are now in the Canada Council Art Bank, the Governor General's residence and the Canadian Embassy in Moscow. Simon was the first native artist to exhibit at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton. He even had a brush with Hollywood when his work was included in the Walt Disney movie *Another Summer*.



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## Rodin comes to Barrie

August Rodin (1840-1917), creator of such masterpieces as *The Thinker* is one of the greatest sculptors in history. There are museums in Paris, Tokyo and Philadelphia dedicated to the French artist—and now, an entire Ontario city. The MacLaren Art Centre in Barrie, 100 km north of Toronto, last week unveiled 51 Rodin bronzes and plaster works, the gift of several anonymous



The *Thinker*, Rodin

donors. MacLaren director William Moore plans to construct a pavilion for the plaques, which he expects will eventually number more than 50, making it the largest such collection outside Paris's Musée Rodin. But the bronzes will be placed in the open air throughout Barrie's 800 hectares of parkland and trails, a high-profile look-ahead to the controversial ArtCry project. That's the MacLaren's ambitious attempt to turn the dry into what Moore calls "a permanent, great, indoor-outdoor museum."

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## Entertainment Notes

### Love and geography

Even were it not T.S. Eliot's famously cruel month and poetry month in Canada, April would still be the right time to publish the aptly named Scotter L'Abbe's first poetry collection. Many of the literally wide-ranging poems of *A Stranger Relief* (McClelland & Stewart), which evoke locales from South Korea to rural Quebec, portray a broken and remote Earth. Scarcely predestined to be a poet—Scotter is her birth name—L'Abbe is the daughter of a Franco-Ontarian painter and a Guyanese visual artist. Her verse shows a deep sensitivity to landscape and geography from the havoc caused by the first disappearing Aral Sea to the subtle processes of the human body—the theme of *Midwinters*, the extraordinary poems that conclude the line that supplies her book's title.



### Best-Sellers

- | Fiction                                   | Non-Fiction                               |
|---|---|
| 1. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  | 1. THE WINDMILL OF GOD, David Shields (2) |
| 2. DEAR SCOTTER, Scotter L'Abbe (2)       | 2. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  |
| 3. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  | 3. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  |
| 4. A POWERFUL WOMAN, Amy Tan (2)          | 4. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  |
| 5. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  | 5. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  |
| 6. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  | 6. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  |
| 7. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  | 7. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  |
| 8. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  | 8. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  |
| 9. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  | 9. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  |
| 10. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2) | 10. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2) |

### Non-fiction

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  | 1. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, Amy Tan (2)  |
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Allan Fotheringham

## They do it their way

**T**uberculosis put Palm Springs on the map. There's no question about that. In 1894, Emily and John McCallister took their invalid sons, John, from fog-bound San Francisco and sought the healing powers of the desert warmth.

They became the first non-Indians to settle in the little oasis of Agua Caliente. They bought a small piece of land from the Southern Pacific railroad in what had been a paradise for the Agua Caliente band of Cahuilla Indians who long knew the magic waters. There they built a small ranch house. And so began the reputation of the town that caters to all ailments known to man.

Today, those flocking here are more likely to head for the Bony Ford Center. Frank Sinatra Drive runs into Bob Hope Drive, which runs into Gerald Ford Drive. Not far away is Gene Autry Trail, which leads to the airport, away from Mary Pickford Drive and Buddy Rogers Drive. Fred Wiand Drive is over there, too.

It's 34° C in March. For those in need of help, the phone books list Substance Abuse Control, Guide Dogs of the Desert, Dial-A-Prayer, Garbancito, Anonymous, Suicide Hotline, Discrimination Complaints, Overweight Anonymous, Domestic Violence Hotline, Narcotics Anonymous, Living Free Dog and Cat Sanctuary, and Phobias Anonymous. Those magic waters must be losing their kick.

We are at the funeral of John Phillips, the celebrated leader of the '60s group the Mamas and the Papas. He once wrote in England and lived in a house for six months with Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones. He developed a heroin addiction. "The one thing I knew," he said, "it was seven years later." His unexpected liver has now given out after nine years.

Phillips was one of the intrusive figures in rock. In 1967, he put together the Monterey Pop Festival, featuring the rock royalty. Some of the headliners: Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Otis Redding, Jerry Garcia, Keith Moon and Mauna Kea Blower. All of them are dead.

The Rancho Chapel of course packed. One of the wreaths befitting the coffin is from Jack Nicholson. The favorite eulogy is flowered shirts with jeans and cowboy boots. And that's just the main California article: only place where teenagers come to a funeral in droves. Outside there are four white stretch limos and one of black.

On Frank Sinatra Drive, naturally, there is the Sinatra

special—nine different banglows sprinkled around two pools, a tennis court, golf course and the back door. There are 15 bedrooms and 32 bathrooms. Vancouver billionaire Jimmy Pattison bought the whole thing six years ago, on one provision: Everything had to be left as is. He also owns Rayley's Believe It or Not!

A gracious host, he shows us around, warning that it will take 1½ hours to do it properly. He was right. Powers from Sinatra's 58 movies, all displayed chronologically. The John F. Kennedy, ahem, Marilyn Monroe bedroom, her baby-doll pi's in the closet, a look of MGM has flared on the wall, a lack of JFK's has heads a.

Sinatra in his doghouse tried to be an actor, and his embarrassing efforts decorate the compound. In one particularly embarrassing attempt, he was so worried he mangled his own music in singing the effort. There is his own patching bag where he worked out. He dips with a pistol beside his bed. There is the bedroom with the marbled ceiling, Jimmy, a collector himself. One of his vintage cars is in the garage. Sinatra's last wife had been married to Chico Marx.

The town, of course, relies on the We were a delightful evening with Romy Cardale Hart, the 95th Broadway diva who was married to writer-director Moss Hart (My Fair Lady, etc.), doing a charming recreation using an old "My Life on the Wicked Stage." Her pianist this evening is Bill Mann, Harpo Marx's son, who plays at a local venue. Charlie Chaplin's son, Sydney, still lives here. Sonny Bono, who lost a race, used to be the mayor. Carol Channing makes backstage So does Barbara Sinatra.

We are at the fabulous Palm Springs Fallin', the show that saved the downtown of Palm Springs from Starbuck and the rest. Running from November to May, it has drawn two million patrons in its 10 years. The show? In this land of personified sunshine! A daily show featuring professional showgirls who range in age from 57 to 87. Plus some vaudeville. A dig act. And aging idols such as Julietta La Rosa. The show's been revived to Broadway.

Orson and producer is Ruff Markowitz, who got his start in Northern Ontario radio and was co-founder of First Choice, one of Canada's first pay-TV networks. Outside the Jack Benny Plaza, pedestrians are greeted with rain from overhead jets. It's 47° C in the sun. The Indians? They got their land back and now run the largest casino in town. Toronto's reverge



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